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Palestinians plan religious department

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The Palestinian self-rule administration has decided to set up a religious affairs department, a Palestinian official said on Sunday. Sheikh Mohammad Abu Sadeh, an under-secretary for religious affairs in the Palestinian authority, said: "The Palestinian authority has decided to set up a ministry of Islamic affairs to supervise the Muslim holy places." It would not begin to function until Palestinian authority was extended to other parts of the Israeli-occupied West Bank, he added. "The department's duties would cover supervising lands owned by Islamic Waqf, the Muslim cemeteries, preaching, legislation, along with other matters," he said. The department, he added, expected eventually to supervise Al Aqsa mosque. He said it was important for Palestinians, Jordanians and all Muslims to cooperate to end Israeli occupation of East Jerusalem. The leadership of the Palestinian authority and Jordan can sit and discuss who would supervise Muslim holy shrines in Jerusalem," he added. "There should be no problem over administering the holy places in Jerusalem."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية «الراي»

French police continue crackdown

PARIS (AFP) — French police pursued their security crackdown on suspected militants for the eighth straight night, as the authorities continued to deny threats from extremist Algerian groups who have vowed attacks on France. Some 2,317 people were stopped by police overnight in Paris and 84 of them were handed over to detectives for further questioning. An estimated 22,000 people have been detained so far in the security dragnet, with some 400 turned over to detectives for a number of minor offences. On Saturday two more suspected militants, charged with having links to a "terrorist" group, were sent to Folcmbray in northeastern France, bringing to 25 the total number of people being held there pending expulsion once a third country can be found to take them. The crackdown was announced by Interior Minister Charles Pasqua after fundamentalists murdered five French gendarmes and consular staff in Algeria. The Islamic Salvation Army, the armed wing of Algeria's banned Islamic Salvation Front, last week threatened France with reprisals unless the detainees were released.

Volume 18 Number 5688

AMMAN MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 1994, RAB' ALAWAL 8, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Crown Prince forms Royal Commission for Modernisation and Development

Commission to work on upgrading legislation, enforcing respect for law, expediting judicial work, ensuring citizens' rights and investment climate

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Sunday named a Royal Commission for Modernisation and Development as called for by His Majesty King Hussein.

The nomination of the commission, headed by the Crown Prince and including 12 members, was approved by the King by a Royal Decree, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The formation of the panel came in line with an Aug. 10 directive by King Hussein to the Crown Prince. In the directive, the King entrusted the Crown Prince with forming and heading the committee which should comprise "the elite of the elite of Jordanians" and well known for their integrity, honesty and sincerity.

The King said the group should seek to create the right economic conditions and suitable climate to attract investments and its work should cover the private and public sectors based on clear foundations.

The commission should ensure that every citizen is assured of his or her rights and that negligence, deviation and shortcomings in performing public service are eliminated, the King said.

The members of the commission named by the Crown Prince are:

1. Thonoun Hindawi, deputy prime minister.
2. Jamal Nasser, member of the Upper House of Parliament and former justice minister.
3. Mohammad Al Saqqaf, former minister of supply and currently special advisor to the Crown Prince.
4. Rial Shalana, former justice minister.
5. Hisham Al Tal, justice minister.
6. Adel Qudrah, minister of supply and former head of the Audit Bureau.
7. General Mustafa Al Qasbi, director-general of the General Intelligence Department.
8. Ahd Kharabshah, head of the Audit Bureau.
9. Sulaiman Al Hafez, secretary-general of the Ministry of Finance.
10. Eid Shakhaneh, secretary-general of the Bureau of Administrative Control and Inspection.
11. Asma Khasawneh, ambassador and advisor to the Crown Prince.
12. Turki Haddad, advisor at the Prime Ministry.

The Crown Prince made the nomination in a letter he sent to King Hussein.

Following are major excerpts from the letter:

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate, Please allow me at the outset to express to Your Majesty my true love, great respect and gratitude for your kind letter through which you entrusted me with sharing this burden with you for the sake of our people and the task of heading a Royal Commission seeking to create a sound and appropriate economic climate based on clear legislative and administrative bases, ensuring that every citizen has his right and preventing any negligence, deviation, shortcomings or abuse of authority, which affect our economic and development march and offend our dear homeland.

Our nation, equipped with the confidence and pride you inculcated in it, has sought to consolidate the bases of comprehensive development, deriving its creative capacities and energies from your vision, wisdom and great leadership, to build a strong Jordan whose citizens enjoy security, tranquility, freedom and prosperity.

Building on your directives contained in your Royal Letter to entrust the Royal Commission to create the right economic atmosphere which paves the way for development, being a national collective effort based on solid and clear bases enabling the country to enter a new era with firm steps, I would like to reiterate that dimensions of this mission are related to the development of legislation, expanding the circle of law, ensuring the highest degree of unique and honest performance, enhancing respect for the law and ensuring coordination among the various parties concerned.

We are at the threshold of a new era which requires further degrees of awareness of the developments of this age and the current changes, particularly as it is characterized by intertwined economic interests among the world nations, making it incumbent on us to stress the saying of Imam Sha'arani: "The wisest of the people are those who are better informed about their times."

Therefore it is a must to bridge legal gaps resulting from lapse on the part of laws and regulations in keeping abreast with the rapid development of the various aspects of economic life.

There is also a need for keeping abreast with the latest in legislature to draw benefits to the nation and avoid negative complications, which might undermine its credibility and reputation, and protect public funds and people's rights.

Concerning existing legislation, it should be noted that some of the laws are not enforced, contrary to the Fiqh (Islamic jurisprudence) rule which calls for implementing the law rather than neglecting it. Therefore special attention should be directed to enforcing the laws in the best manner to ensure the administration of justice and respect of laws without any discrimination or favoritism.

The complications of economic and commercial relations have led to the emergence of a host of activities which do not constitute a taboo by themselves but are governed and organized by codes of conduct and ethical values to avoid suspicion.

Duty makes it incumbent upon us to look into enhancing and ensuring that such codes of conduct are respected by those carrying out economic activities.

Whereas independent and honest judiciary is the fence of justice, there is a need to reconsider the necessary steps to facilitate easy reference to it and to ensure that resorting to an arbitrator will not lead to any delay in settling issues, because delaying the administration of justice is paramount to its denial.

Among the things that require proper handling in this regard are supporting the judiciary, ensuring its independence and upgrading the performance of those working in this field so that their legal judgement will be a source of innovation and creativity, which will in turn enrich the Fiqh thinking, broaden the base for judgement to cope with any developments in the various aspects of life.

While receiving a new era, heralding God Willing, economic prosperity, we are keen to ensure that the fruits of this era will reach all our citizens and will not be restricted to certain individuals or parties.

We believe that this is the best guarantee for a peace based on firm foundations of justice and equity.

We also believe that serious and dedicated workers should reap the fruits of their efforts all hard work. At the same time, the illegal acquisition of wealth and abuse of authority or public office and excessive profits all conflict with our religious and national values, and therefore should be subject to legal questioning.

They also harm the country's image and undermine its reputation and credibility at a time when intertwined international economic and commercial interests make it imperative on us more than any time before to bridge the gaps and enhance administrative efficiency and remedy shortcomings.

While expressing to Your Majesty my deep love and great appreciation and respect, I hope that the Royal Commission for Modernisation and Development will be able to carry out with honesty the responsibilities you entrusted it with.

I will do my utmost to ensure the implementation of this assignment, giving high priority to the issue of establishing a central purchasing authority, crystallising an external policy for commercial dealing, stressing the roles of the Audit Bureau and the Bureau of Administrative Control and Inspection, hoping that myself and my colleagues whom I am honoured to present their names as members of the commission will live up to Your Majesty's confidence.

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Majali briefs Aziz on Jordanian-Israeli moves

Israel denies Iraq contacts, but says chances should be explored

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz on Sunday discussed the latest developments in the Middle East peace process and Jordanian-Israeli relations, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The agency said Dr. Majali and Mr. Aziz discussed "the situation in the region and the latest developments in the regional and international scenes."

Petra did not elaborate, but official sources said Dr. Majali briefed Mr. Aziz during the one-hour meeting on the progress made in Jordan's peace negotiations with Israel and unconfirmed reports that Baghdad could be seeking a role in the 34-month-old peace process and was engaged in clandestine contacts with the Jewish state.

Diplomatic sources brushed aside Iraqi and Israeli denials of such contacts and said all indications were that Baghdad was indeed interested in exploring possibilities whether Israel could come in handy to advance its efforts to end the four-year-old international sanctions against Iraq.

However, they said, it was unlikely that Jordan was acting as a go-between. "Iraqis have their own means outside the region for contacts," said one diplomat without elaboration.

Iraqi Information Minister Yusef Humadi has criticized Jordan for suggesting that Iraq could play an important role in the 34-month-old Arab-Israeli peace process co-sponsored by the U.S. and Russia.

During a press conference at Aqaba after an unprecedented summit hosted by His Majesty King Hussein, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said he had not sought Jordanian mediation for a meeting with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Iraq has consistently denied reports of secret contacts with Israel. On Saturday, Iraqi embassy spokesman Adel Ibrahim described as baseless an Israeli television report that Mr. Aziz had sent a message to the Israeli government through two

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Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Sunday meets with Iraqi Deputy Premier Tariq Aziz (Petra photo)

Agreement on W. Bank with PLO is close, Israel says

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), meeting this week to accelerate peace moves, are near agreement on expanding Palestinian powers in the occupied West Bank, a top Israeli official said on Sunday. "I believe we are close to a conclusion. We have a very intense week," Uri Savir, director-general of the foreign ministry, told Israel Radio.

Having handed over Jericho in the West Bank and most of the Gaza Strip to the PLO, Israel is due to transfer power in five spheres of life in the rest of the West Bank in what is known as "early empowerment."

Palestinians had expected an agreement last week. Mr. Savir said the main obstacle was the handover of responsibility for the direct taxation of the West Bank's Palestinian residents.

"The negotiations on the early transfer of the powers are at a very advanced stage and what remains mainly are the negotiations on the transfer of power on the matter of direct taxation," Mr. Savir said.

"The moment this matter, that is the money matter, will be settled, I believe the way is paved for the transfer of the five powers," he said.

The five areas, as outlined in an 11-month-old peace deal, are education, health, social affairs, taxation and tourism.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat decided last week to accelerate peace moves, scheduling committee meetings on Monday and Tuesday this week in the Gaza Strip on early empowerment and Palestinian elections.

Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin had pledged to settle the issues of empowerment and general elections within two days, top PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath said.

"If that isn't the case, the unresolved issues will be completed directly on Wednesday by the liaison committee which will meet in Cairo," he added.

If the liaison committee, chaired by Dr. Shaath and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, succeeds in drawing up an agreement then Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat could ratify it as soon as Aug. 22, the following Monday.

Dr. Shaath first meets Monday with his Israeli counterpart General Danny Rothchild for two days of talks at the Erez crossing between the Gaza Strip and Israel.

"We must extend the Palestinian authority's administration to the West Bank as quickly as possible," Dr.

Shaath told Israeli Radio on Saturday.

Mr. Rabin has said Israel would not move ahead with empowerment if the Palestinian authority could not guarantee it had sufficient funds.

The authority will have to pay wages to 15,000 workers currently employed by the Israeli military administration which in 1993 cost \$170 million.

Israel and the PLO agreed on a Palestinian budget of \$54 million for six months, the finance ministry said Friday.

The two sides also agreed to ask donor countries for an immediate payment of \$30 million to cover part of administration costs, the ministry said. The rest would come from taxes, as Dr. Shaath repeated appeals to Palestinians to pay their dues.

Talks will also resume Monday on another disputed issue — that of joint Israeli-PLO control of border crossings into the autonomous areas.

Progress was made Friday when Israel agreed to begin sharing control of the Rafah crossing between Egypt and the Gaza Strip on August 21 after a meeting between Dr. Shaath and Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal.

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Syria seeks Golan pullout in months, not years — Sharaa

CAIRO (Agencies) — Syria wants an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights within months and not years as Israel has proposed, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said Sunday.

"Syria is talking about a rapid withdrawal in several months while the Israelis talk about a withdrawal over years," Mr. Sharaa said after meeting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria.

Israeli newspapers said Friday that Syria had proposed a phased withdrawal from the Golan over two years in exchange for peace with Israel.

Syria is seeking an Israeli pledge to withdraw from the whole of the Golan, seized in 1967, while Israel wants Damascus to agree to full peace with security guarantees before it agrees to pull out.

Mr. Al Sharaa said there had been no "Israeli pledge concerning total withdrawal" from the strategic plateau as yet.

But he expected "precise questions" linked to conditions for Israeli-Syrian peace to be discussed during U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's next tour of the region in mid-September.

Mr. Sharaa's visit to Egypt came five days after the end of a previous shuttle mission by Mr. Christopher to bring Israel and Syria closer to peace.

Mr. Sharaa added that his country intended "to pursue the peace process so that it achieves its fixed objective and covers all the components of peace."

At the top of Syria's priorities were an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan "as well as the link between the Syrian and Lebanese tracks" of the peace process, he said.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Sunday Syria was showing encouraging signs of a desire for peace with Israel, according to a government official.

"There are small encouraging signs of Syria's desire to move forward in the peace process," Mr. Rabin told

ministers at the weekly cabinet meeting.

Mr. Rabin said Israel's contacts with Syria via Mr. Christopher concentrated on four issues: Israel's withdrawal from the Golan, timetable for the pullout, the link between withdrawal and the normalisation of ties, and security matters.

Egypt's ambassador to Tel Aviv, Mohammad Bassiumi, said Sunday he expected Israel and Syria to sign a declaration of principles on peace "before the end of the year."

"The differences (between the two countries) are deep, but there is no doubt the two parties want to move forward in the peace process," Mr. Bassiumi told Israeli radio.

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said Friday there had been "progress in Israeli-Syrian negotiations and there will be greater progress during the next tour by Christopher."

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is also expected to visit Alexandria on Monday to discuss with Mr. Mubarak problems dogging Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

It will be Mr. Arafat's second visit to Egypt in 10 days. He met Mr. Mubarak, and Mr. Christopher in Alexandria on Aug. 6.

Mr. Sharaa was asked about the Israeli news report that the United States proposed a two-year Israeli pullout as a compromise between a four-year offer by Israel and a one-year demand by Syria.

He referred to the supposed offer as only "what is going on in the media."

Israel has not publicly offered to withdraw completely from the Golan.

Mr. Sharaa said repeated shuttle missions by Mr. Christopher have not gotten down to specifics. He said there were some "overall points offered...but they have not been discussed in detail."

Concrete points may be on the agenda the next time Mr. Christopher shuttles to the Middle East.

Gaza settler killed, 6 injured

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Suspected Palestinian assailants opened fire on Israeli cars Sunday near Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip, killing one person and wounding six others, the army and radios reported.

In a drive-by attack about 4 p.m. (1300 GMT), assailants pumped bullets into a car near Kissufim junction, killing one person and leaving two in serious condition, army radio said.

Several hours earlier, assailants opened fire on an Israeli delivery truck and a passenger car in the same area, wounding three. That attack was claimed by the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, which is opposed to the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

Both incidents occurred on main arteries leading through the Palestinian self-rule areas to the Gush Katif settlement zone where 4,000 Israelis live.

In both cases, the attackers fled into the autonomous Palestinian areas. Palestinian and Israeli police launched

joint patrols to pursue them.

In the Kissufim attack, assailants travelling by car opened fire with automatic weapons at four Israelis in another car, killing one and wounding the other three, two of them seriously, military officials said. All four were employed by the Motorola company.

Israeli soldiers chased the attackers, who fled toward the Palestinian village of Deir Al Balah. But the soldiers did not enter the village.

Earlier unknown attackers shot and slightly wounded four Israeli settlers in a similar drive-by attack in the same area.

Reacting to the incidents, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said: "We are facing a permanent war waged by the enemies of peace among the Palestinians, spearheaded by the (militants) of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad."

It also referred to clashes in East Jerusalem on Friday when Israeli security forces shot dead at least one Hamas member.

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Israeli and Palestinian negotiators were due to meet Monday for two days of talks at the Erez crossing between the Gaza Strip and Israel.

The Israeli authorities protested to the joint Israeli-Palestinian committee in charge of security around settlements and crossings from Israel over the attacks.

The Israeli's death raised to 15 the number of Israelis killed in unrest since Palestinian self-rule was launched on May 4.

Izzedine Al Qassam, the armed wing of Hamas, said it carried out the first attack in retaliation for Israeli gunfire at Palestinians in the Khan Yunes community of Gaza and the arrest of a Hamas activist last week.

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Egyptians join forces to attack population conference

CAIRO (AFP) — The Muslims of Egypt have joined forces to attack the "devil's" conference on world population control to be held here next month, in a move which is embarrassing the host country.

Al Azhar, the world's highest Sunni Muslim authority, has judged that the conference's action plan violates Islamic teachings, amid charges that the West's main aim in the meeting was to curb growth in Muslim countries.

Financed by the state and representing the moderate face of Islam, Al Azhar joined radical Muslims in attacking the World Population Conference, to be held in Cairo from Sept. 5 to 13 with more than 150 countries taking part.

Radicals have dubbed it the "devil's" conference to address the West's fears about population growth in the Third World, notably in Muslim countries.

Al Azhar's reaction was a serious blow to the government of President Hosni Mubarak, which had been counting on the institution's endorsement of the proposed action plan.

Earlier this month, Population Minister Maher Mahran confidently announced — in front of at least 100 dignitaries and journalists — that his ministry had sent the recommendations to Al Azhar for approval.

The grand sheikh (Ali Gad Al Hag) has formed a committee from (Al Azhar's)

Islamic Research Academy ... and when it convenes, it will issue its opinion on the conference's plan," he added.

But the opinion was a harsh one. "The conference's action plan includes issues which contradict Islamic (principles), by condoning abortion, homosexual relationships and heterosexual relationships out of wedlock," it said in a statement released Wednesday.

"These issues violate the Islamic Sharia (law) and ... proliferate fornication and lead to pernicious diseases that are transmitted by sexual contact," it warned.

The action plan calls for preventing unwanted pregnancies and reducing abortion rates, but recommends that reliable information on abortions should be provided to women, and that the operation should be safe.

Referring to homosexuality and premarital sex, the plan says information on safe sexual conduct should be made available to prevent transmission of sexual diseases and unwanted pregnancies.

For Fahmi Howaidi, an Islamic scholar, development has been marginalised in the plan's 16 chapters.

"We have to develop our society first," he told AFP. "But instead, it seems the sole aim of the conference is how to stop the population increase in the Third World."

Adel Hussein of the Islamic newspaper Al Ahram complained of a conspiracy

against the world's Muslims. "The Cairo conference calls for the annihilation of weakened peoples, and in particular Muslims," he charged.

Mr. Hussein based his argument on Western studies — among them a 1974 report by former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger — warning that population growth in Third World countries posed a threat to Western civilisation.

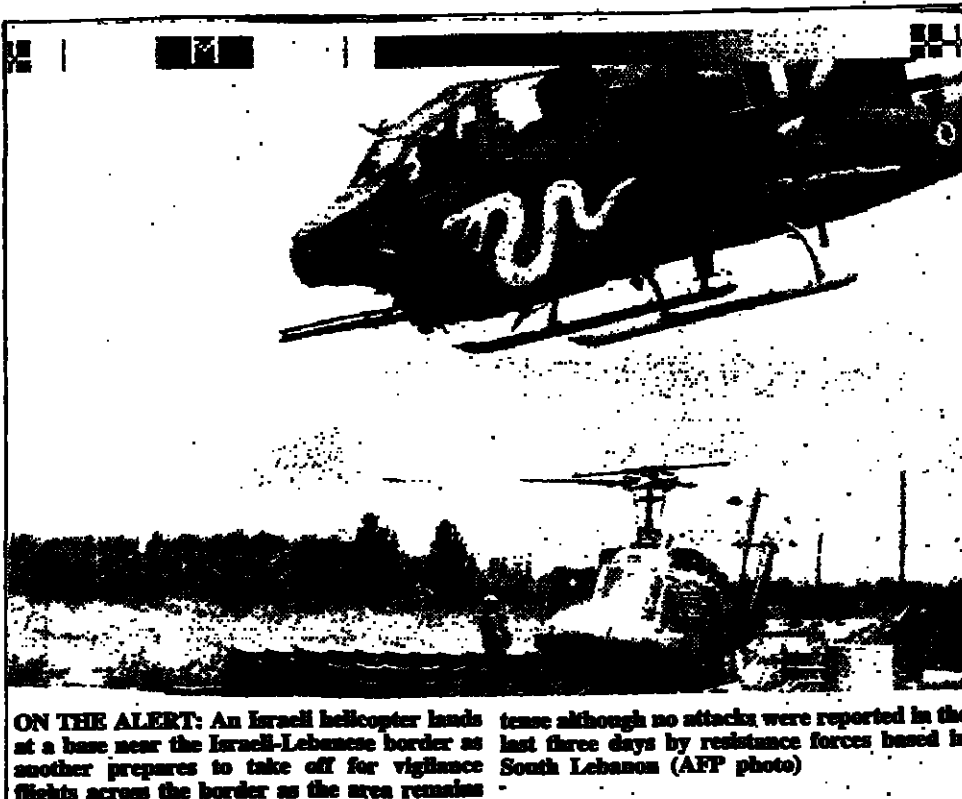
"The (action) plan is not aimed at developing the impoverished world, but it is a racist plan for the welfare of the controlling white element, aimed at continuing their robbery and weakening us," Mr. Hussein wrote.

"The plan aims at spreading fornication, destroying marriage and the family unit and condoning abortion ... They want our society to become barren, like theirs," he charged.

A professor at Al Azhar's university, Mohammad Al Messir, said fears over a world population explosion were a smoke-screen.

"At a time when Africa and Asia are rife with AIDS, droughts and civil wars in which people are perishing, Europe is using different means to ensure its own population growth," he said.

The Muslim Brotherhood, meanwhile, has called for a concerted campaign to stir public opinion against the conference in Egypt, a country where the population has jumped to 58.5 million from 47 million people in 1984.



ON THE ALERT: An Israeli helicopter lands at a base near the Israeli-Lebanese border as another prepares to take off for a night flight across the border as the area remains tense although no attacks were reported in the last three days by resistance forces based in South Lebanon (AFP photo)

Globe-trotter Arafat turns into family man

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Yasser Arafat has been transformed from a globe-trotter into a family man at the head of a self-rule administration with everyday problems, a month after having settled in Gaza.

Adapting to his new role, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman now works almost normal hours and goes back to his wife Suha to spend each night under the same roof.

No more the guerrilla chief who conferred with his aides in the early hours of the morning and slept in late, Mr. Arafat now toils through the day taking cat-naps and a brief night's sleep.

And, not needing to confuse potential enemies by sleeping in a different house every night, he goes home at around 3 a.m. to a villa lent to the Arafat couple by a wealthy Gazan family.

He is up four hours later, ready to meet foreign dignitaries, read the latest news and letters from his emissaries abroad, in a modest-sized office overlooking the Mediterranean.

After a light lunch, he catches a two-hour nap at the same office building he works out of, which is the Palestinian radio and television broadcasting centre — chosen to cut down on funds.

Whereas for decades he roamed the globe in search of international backing, Mr. Arafat has only left the self-rule areas once since settling

in Gaza on July 12.

He travelled to the Egyptian city of Alexandria to meet President Hosni Mubarak, whom he invited to visit Gaza, and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on Aug. 6.

On a more typical day for Mr. Arafat in August, he met senior British and U.S. diplomats, an Israeli trade union official, and 20 Palestinian graduates back from Europe where they were trained on how to prepare for elections.

In the late afternoon, he was invited to a graduation ceremony at a girls' secondary school, complete with an orchestra and folk dancing.

Joining in the fun, Mr. Arafat removed his trademark checkered headscarf and waved it in the air as he circled with the dancers in a dabkeh.

More reports and letters awaited him back at the office, and meetings with his ministers and local delegates, who pour in daily from across the Gaza Strip and West Bank with their problems.

His aides describe Mr. Arafat as calm and restrained. He does not smoke or drink coffee or alcohol, is never idle and sometimes even answers his spokesman's phone in the next office, to the surprise of journalists.

Mr. Arafat is said to be chummy with his aides and guards, often joining them at the same table for meals,



Yasser Arafat



Suha Arafat

usually chicken or fish at lunch, and watermelon and cheese in the evenings.

"We can't wait for the watermelon season to be over," joked one of his aides.

True to his Islamic faith, Mr. Arafat prays five times a day and reads verses from the Holy Koran before going to sleep at the end of another long day for the leader of the Palestinians.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Defector says SPLA close to defeat

KHARTOUM (AFP) — The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) could lose the country's bloody civil war within a few months, a top defector predicted Saturday. John Kwang, former chief of staff of the breakaway SPLA-United faction, said the Sudanese government army could be in control of the whole country with months and not years. In an interview published Saturday by daily Al Sudan Al Hadeeth, Mr. Kwang said: "For two years now the army is falling apart." Mr. Kwang, who was one of the founders of the SPLA, said Colonel Garang had been confined to a defensive position and was no longer capable of launching attacks. But the defector admitted that the main rebel faction "could lead a bush war in the jungle." He added that Col. Garang's main strategy at present was to coordinate with the northern Sudan opposition in exile, which is based in Cairo and led by former Sudanese army Chief of Staff Fathi Ahmad Ali, for a possible coup to topple Khartoum's Islamic regime, installing Mr. Fathi as president and Garang as his deputy. Mr. Kwang said he was imprisoned by Col. Garang from 1989 to 1993. He added that the SPLA leader had now moved to neighbouring Uganda after recent military defeats, and that his faction was receiving arms from an unnamed Arab country.

Ferraro quits law firm in Libya row

NEW YORK (AP) — Former Vice-Presidential Candidate Geraldine Ferraro resigned as a partner in a law firm that is representing Libya in connection with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103. The Chicago-based firm, Keck, Mahin and Cate, said in a statement Friday that the link to Libya was at odds with "her public service interests, which the firm supports." President Clinton appointed Ms. Ferraro to head the U.S. delegation to the U.N. Human Rights Commission. Last month, Victoria Reggie Kennedy, the wife of Sen. Edward Kennedy, left the firm as a result of its representation of Libya. Ms. Ferraro, who served three terms in the U.S. House of Representatives and was the first woman on a major-party ticket in the 1984 presidential campaign, had been working for the firm's New York office.

Sudan blames U.N. over kidnapped children

KHARTOUM (AFP) — The Sudanese government blamed U.N. agencies over the kidnapping by rebel forces of about 20,000 south Sudanese children from a refugee camp in Kenya. In a statement carried by newspapers Saturday, the national committee on abducted children, charged that failure by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) to properly care for the refugees in the Kakuma camp had sparked the abductions. The committee said the kidnappers from the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) were using the minors for carrying munitions, food and supplies and sent them for military training and recruitment to "replenish lost combatants." It added that the children's fate was the responsibility of the international community, and that keeping silent on the issue was tantamount to "complicity with the perpetrators." The statement called on the West to exercise pressure on the SPLA to secure the release of the children. The Al Engaz Al Watani daily, quoting what it identified as "returnees from rebel ranks," said the SPLA last week began moving 10,000 children from Kakuma to an area on the Sudan-Uganda border.

Experts to study UAE's migratory birds

ABU DHABI (AP) — A team of European ornithologists will launch a two-month study of migratory birds next week, one of the biggest ever conducted in the Middle East. Erik Hirschfeld, chairman of the emirates bird records committee and one of region's top ornithologists, said the experts from Sweden, Poland, the Netherlands and France are scheduled to arrive Aug. 21. "Tens of thousands of migrant wading birds, such as sandpipers, godwits, stints and curlews, are currently residing on the beaches of the UAE," Mr. Hirschfeld, a 34-year-old Swede, told the Associated Press. "Very little about these birds is known here as nothing has been done in the past," he said. "This is the largest shorebird study ever to be carried out in the Middle East." Mr. Hirschfeld said the birds fly from their North Siberian breeding grounds to the shores of the UAE to rest, feed and change into winter plumage before continuing their annual migration to Africa. "Several hundreds of thousands, if not millions, will visit our shores between August and November and several tens of thousands will take up residence here over the winter," he said.

Iran rebels deny link to hanged 'bomber'

NICOSIA (AFP) — The main Iranian armed opposition group on Sunday denied any link to the man hanged for planning to bomb a mosque in eastern Iran and charged that Tehran was planning a new offensive. According to the official Iranian news agency IRNA, a member of the Mujahadeen-e-Khalq was hanged in public on Saturday for planning to bomb the Sunni mosque of Makke in Zahedan. Bahram Abbaszadeh was arrested on June 23 on his way to attack the mosque in a bid to create unrest between Sunni Muslims and the Shiite Muslim majority of Iran, IRNA said. But the Mujahadeen, in a statement sent to AFP in Cyprus, denied any link to the man or the bombing. "These are absurd lies made up by the mullahs' dictatorship... to prepare the ground for a large-scale offensive against bases of the Iranian resistance in Iraq and for terrorist attacks by its activists abroad," it charged.

Ten years of blood and tears—Kurdish rebellion

ANKARA (AFP) — In 10 years of blood and tears, the uprising of the Turkish Kurds has left an estimated 15,000 dead, thousands more tortured or wounded, and inflicted further damage on Turkey's battered human rights record.

The rebellion, aimed at setting up a homeland for the Kurds outside Ankara's control, was formally launched August 15, 1984 by the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) created in 1979 in the Lebanese Bekaa Valley, led by Abdullah "Apo" Ocalan.

Based in south-east Turkey, where the majority of the population is ethnic Kurd, the PKK attacks police and army posts and public transport, disrupting the economy.

As recently as last Wednesday it was accused of showering a bus with machine-gun fire, killing 11 civilians of whom two were children.

Ranged against the Kurds, who are estimated to number some 10 to 12 million out of an overall Turkish population of 60 million, the security force, police and special forces in the region are thought to number some 250,000 men.

They have been accused of the full range of acts of repression, acts of intimidation, mass torture and forced evictions of homes and villages.

The toll of close to 15,000 dead, 3,500 judged as civilians and 2,500 as security forces, comes from figures compiled by AFP from official statistics. The PKK does not allow independent witnesses into south-east Turkey

and does not provide statistics.

Both sides agree that dozens of villages have been levelled by the fighting, while hundreds more have been emptied of their inhabitants, who have gone to swell the population of the shanty towns which have grown up outside the bigger villages of the region.

Thousands of people have also fled over the border to seek protection in northern Iraq.

At the same time, the economy of the 13 provinces in south-east Turkey has been ruined and investment and commerce have dried up.

Since the arrival of right-winger Tansu Ciller in power in June 1993, backed up by army support, the killings have intensified, pushed on by Ciller's determination to rid the country of the PKK's "terrorism."

Around 2,600 people have been killed since January 1 alone.

The PKK in turn has resorted to making isolated attacks in western Turkey and in the coastal holiday resorts once popular with Western European tourists.

Four foreign tourists were killed by bombs in the old capital Istanbul and on the beaches. One, a Romanian, was killed Saturday. Two Finnish tourists are currently believed held hostage.

The Turkish tourism industry, which was booming in 1992 and accounted for 25 per cent of foreign currency earnings, has been devastated.

With reports filtering out on repression and widespread

Kuwait speaker seeks legalised parties

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait should permit the existence of political parties and the publication of more newspapers to strengthen parliamentary democracy, the assembly speaker said in remarks published in Saturday's newspapers.

Ahmad Al Saadoun, who is also a veteran opposition figure, added that the way the cabinet was formed should be changed but gave few details about how this should be done.

"Since 1965 I have held the opinion that there could be no complete and comprehensive democratic system in Kuwait without the presence of political organisations and parties," he said in answer to reporters' questions during a briefing.

He said the government could easily hold the majority in the assembly provided the way of forming the cabinet

was changed.

There is no formal prohibition against political parties but the government exercises a de facto on their formation, saying their existence would foster divisions, endangering national security.

It tolerates the existence of informal political groupings and the publication of some of their news-sheets. But it does not tolerate any high profile participation in general elections by political groupings.

Whatever parliament's political complexion following general elections, by tradition the crown prince — a member of the ruling Sabah family — becomes prime minister.

The last general elections in 1992 produced an opposition-dominated assembly that is a mixture of Islamists, leftists, Arab nationalists

and democrats.

The government, signalling unprecedented cooperation between legislative and executive, included a large number of elected MPs, some of them opposition figures, in the cabinet.

"We don't have political parties and organisations, but we have political forces and groups. Democratisation is going well, but we still can't improve it," Mr. Saadoun said.

He said freedom of the press would be a major item for discussion in the 1994/1995 sitting which starts in October.

Kuwait's daily newspaper are owned by influential merchant families and Mr. Saadoun said he favoured breaking that monopoly.

Relations between government and parliament have a stormy history in Kuwait.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Pi Et Hercules
17:10 Beunosairol
17:30 Musiques Sans Frontieres
18:30 News in French
19:00 News in Hebrew
19:15 The Weekly Sport Magazine
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 My Big Brother Lake
21:10 A Galactic Odyssey
22:00 News in English
22:30 Matrix
23:10 No Job For A Lady

PRAYER TIMES

04:30 Fair
05:54 (Sunrise) Duka
12:40 Dhaur
16:20 Asr
19:29 Maghreb
21:51 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures will rise sharply with winds northwesterly light to moderate. Aqaba will be very hot with winds northerly moderate and sea calm.

MIN./MAX. TEMP.

Amman 23 / 37
Aqaba 27 / 40
Djaza 18 / 39
Jordan Valley 25 / 41

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 37, Aqaba 42 Humidity
reading: Amman 13 per cent,
Aqaba 16 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Fayed Dabbas 759155
Dr. Jamal Tarif 794710
Dr. Abbas Halani 884446
Dr. Shalash Al Isah 733774
Fina pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asana pharmacy 637055
Nairosh pharmacy 623672
Al Sahan pharmacy 630730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamestani pharmacy 637660
Nairosh pharmacy 623672
Najla pharmacy 847632

IRBD:
Dr. Akram Al Mounai 248793
Alqada pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Issa Al Omari 901266
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES
Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department: 661111
Civil Defence Emergency: 630341
Rescue Police: 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade: 617101
Blood Bank: 775121
Highway Police: 843402
Traffic Police: 896390
Public Security Department: 638221
Hotel Complaints: 659800
Police Complaints: 651176
Water and Sewerage: 631467
Complaints: 897467

Amman Municipality
Complaints: 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance): 121
Overseas Calls: 070230
Central Amman Telephone: 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs: 661101
Jordan Television: 773111
Radio Jordan: 774111
Water Authority: 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority: 815615

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hamud Medical Centre: 813813/32
Khalifeh Maternity, J. Ann: 644216
Alkhal Maternity, J. Ann: 644212
Jabal Amman Maternity: 642362
Mallat, J. Amman: 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani: 664171/4
Sheikhsani Hospital: 669131
University Hospital: 845845
Al-Nasr Hospital: 672219
The Islamic, Abdali: 661217/37
Al-Abid, Abdali: 664164/6
Indian, Al-Mahajra: 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf: 77101/3
Army, Maris: 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital: 622240/50
Azul Hospital: 674135
Zarqa Govt. Hospital: (09)983373
Zarqa National Hospital: (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital: (09)900560
Al Hikma Modern Hospital: (09)909090
BRIDJ:
Princess Basmal Hospital: (02)25555
Greek Catholic Hospital: (02)22275
De Al Nafes Hospital: (02)97100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital: (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:00 Damascus (RJ)
06:30 Jeddah (RJ)
06:50 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
06:55 Riyadh (RJ)
07:00 Beirut (RJ)
07:10 New Delhi (RJ)
07:20 Cairo (RJ)
07:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
07:35 Rhodes (RJ)
07:40 Bangkok (RJ)
07:50 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
08:00 Tunis (add) (RJ)
08:05 Moscow (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

11:00 Khartoum (SD)
13:30 Moscow, Abu Dhabi (GP)
15:00 Rome (AZ)
17:00 Cairo (MS)
20:00 Beirut (EM)
21:00 Beirut (add) (ME)
01:30 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:05 Beirut (RJ)
06:35 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
06:50 Cairo (MS)
07:00 Rhodes (RJ)
07:10 London (RJ)
07:20 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)
07:30 Cairo (RJ)
07:40 Beirut (RJ)
07:50 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
08:00 Dhahran (RJ)
08:10 Damascus (RJ)
08:20 Al Ain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
08:30 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:00 Istanbul (TK)
06:15 Beirut (ME)
06:30 Khartoum (SD)
06:40 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GP)
06:50 Samsat (TY)
07:15 Cairo (MS)
07:20 Dubai (EM)
07:30 Amsterdam (KL)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 650 / 500
Banana 600 / 500
Banana (Mukannar) 620
Cabbage 110 / 80
Carrot 270 / 200
Cauliflower 200 / 120
Cucumbers (large) 180 / 100
Cucumbers (small) 360 / 280
Eggplant 180 / 100
Fig 450 / 350
Garlic 900 / 600
Grapes 260 / 180
Lemon 450 / 350
Marrow (large) 200 / 150
Marrow (small) 400 / 300
Mushrooms 1100 / 900
Okra 300 / 200
Orange 300 / 200
Onion (dry) 260 / 180
Sweet Melon 180 / 100
Pepper (hot) 240 / 150
Pepper (sweet) 400 / 300
Potato 600 / 500
Peaches 900 / 500
Tomato 1100 / 800
String beans 600 / 500
Watermelon 60 / 50



A VISIT TO HEADQUARTERS: His Majesty King Hussein (R) receives from His Majesty King Hassan II, newly-appointed President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Nader A. Dahabi and several of his assistants. Mr. Dahabi, who served many years with the Royal Jordanian Air Force, voiced appreciation of Prince Faisal's visit and of the continuous attention RJ receives from the Royal Family, usually from His Majesty King Hassan II. Mr. Dahabi was appointed RJ president and CEO by the Cabinet Saturday, succeeding Mahmood Jamal Belgeez.

Ministry to finance ozone protection projects

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the environment Sunday signed agreements with several local companies to finance their projects aiming to substitute ozone-depleting substances (ODS) at these companies with ozone-friendly materials.

The agreements were concluded in line with the Vienna Ozone Protection Convention and the Montreal Protocol signed by Jordan in 1989.

The Kingdom received a \$1.5 million grant from the Montreal Fund to help it comply with the provisions of the pact and the protocol.

Four local companies benefited from the agreements. The Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC) will receive an amount of \$805,000 to help it produce pure liquid gas to be used as a substitute for gas which damages the ozone layer.

When production of the liquid gas starts, the Kingdom will be able to discard

about 300 tonnes of freon gas imported from abroad. Also, the locally-produced substitute will save Jordan hard currency which it used to pay to import freon.

Mutheeb Haddad Company also received \$250,000 to substitute production lines that use freon gas with another safer material produced locally.

The Cosmetics and Home Chemical Detergents Company received \$135,000 and Qoula Asi Company received \$152,000 for the same purpose.

The ministry has also decided to allocate the ministry's Environment Department to enable it to carry out related projects.

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Tawfiq Kreishan said the ministry has also drawn plans to carry out other environment protection projects at a cost of \$4.7 million.

He said the ministry will seek direct financing for some of these projects from



Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Tawfiq Kreishan (R) Sunday signs agreements with several local firms to finance environment protection schemes (Petra photo)

the Montreal Fund.

The ministry will seek financing for the other projects from the fund's Executive Committee in its meeting to be held next October, he said.

The agreements were signed Sunday by Mr. Kreishan on behalf of the ministry and, on behalf of the local companies, by their directors general.

Jordan signed the Vienna Convention and the Montreal

Protocol in 1989, and in 1991 it conducted a survey to define the companies and factories using ozone-depleting substances in their production process.

Under the convention, Jordan is considered one of the developing countries which has the right to receive assistance from the Montreal Fund.

Jordan was elected along with India, China and

Malaysia to represent Asia in October's meeting of the Montreal Fund Executive Committee.

The committee has accredited four international agencies to carry out environmental projects in developing countries. These are the World Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme and the International Industrial Development Organisation.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates India

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday sent a cable to Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma, congratulating him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government on India's independence day. King Hussein wished Mr. Sharma continued good health and happiness and the Indian people further progress and prosperity. King Hussein also sent a similar cable to South Korean President Kim Young Sam to congratulate him on his country's national day. King Hussein Sunday also received cables from Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki and member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Executive Committee Mahmoud Abbas congratulating him on the 42nd anniversary of his accession to the throne.

Government offices to close Sunday

AMMAN (Petra) — All ministries, government departments and public institutions will be closed Sunday in observance of Prophet Mohammad's birthday which will fall on Friday Aug. 19, according to a communique issued Sunday by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali.

China congratulates King

AMMAN (Petra) — Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Lawzi received at Parliament Palace Chinese Ambassador to Jordan Wang Chi Je. The Chinese envoy conveyed to Mr. Lawzi the Chinese People's Assembly's and government greetings to His Majesty King Hussein and said China welcomed the steps taken by the King to achieve peace in the Middle East. Discussions at the meeting also focused on bilateral relations and means of enhancing them, particularly in parliamentary fields.

Amman hires 350 Jordanians

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Employment and Labour Office has provided job opportunities to 350 male, Jordanian job-seekers last month, according to office

director Omar Hamash. Mr. Hamash said the office received during the same month 476 applications from job seekers. He said most of them hold university and community college degrees.

Agricultural feasibility studies start

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) and the Jordan Cooperative Institute (JCI) have started preparing feasibility studies for some development projects which will be carried out in southern Jordan by the JCO, the South Development Company and the private sector. These projects include establishing fruit trees and vegetable nurseries, and producing green fodder and herbal medicines.

Ministers meet Irbid council

IRBID (Petra) — The Executive Council of Irbid Governorate met Sunday under the chairmanship of Irbid Governor Fayez Abbadi and in the presence of Health Minister Aref Batayneh and Public Works and Housing Minister Abdul Razzaq Ensom. Mr. Batayneh briefed the council of the Ministry of Health's plans and programmes in the governorate and replied to several of the council members' demands calling for developing first aid and emergency centres and the establishment of a psychiatric health centre in the governorate. Dr. Ensom outlined his ministry's projects and plans in Irbid Governorate and called on the council to prepare a full programme to help the ministry establish agricultural roads in the governorate.

Karak to celebrate national holiday

KARAK (Petra) — The Executive Council of Karak Governorate Sunday reviewed preparations to hold the governorate's major celebration of the 42nd anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the Throne to be held Monday at Karak Secondary School. The celebration will include a march to start from the governorate premises to the school, addresses, poetry recitals and folk dances and songs. A similar celebration of the occasion will also be held in Deir Abee Saeed district in Irbid Governorate.

Arab specialists discuss laser technology advances

By Rima Cortbawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — On the advantages of holding an international laser conference, Dr. Ahmad Bitar, a University of Jordan physics professor, said, "It is important for users of laser equipment to follow up on the recent research done in the field."

The use of light amplification by simulated emission of radiation (LASER) has diverse applications, mainly because the light pulses produced are monochromatic (all photons have same energy), coherent (waves are in the same phase) and intense, Dr. Bitar explained.

Use of lasers vary depending on their sources and the energy of light pulses emitted.

"There is no limit to the extensive uses of lasers, and new applications are studied on a daily basis," said Daif Allah Nassour, a physics professor specialising in optoelectronics at Tishreen University, Syria. "Laser equipment are just as widely used as computers," said Dr. Bitar.

Advanced countries utilise

lasers in medical, engineering, environmental, agricultural and technological fields. "As well as introducing new technologies, lasers advance existing ones," said Dr. Bitar.

Since the 1970s, lasers have been used in Jordan mainly in the fields of medicine and research in addition to printing facilities.

"Research laboratories at universities make use of lasers in studying semi-conducting materials. In hospitals, lasers are significantly used in diagnosis, therapy, and surgery (including eye-surgery)," said Dr. Bitar.

"Some of our hospitals own more than \$1 million worth of laser equipment. The Jordanian Armed Forces also use laser equipment in their military training," said Dr. Bitar.

"But lack of fine technology has so far made it difficult to use lasers in Jordanian industry, although industrial sectors in other countries make tremendous use of lasers," Dr. Bitar said.

In spite of the various applications of laser equipment, "it is not economically feasible to construct them in Jordan."

This conference is merely informative on the new advances in laser technology. It also aims to strengthen collaboration with other scientists all over the world and to coordinate with researchers for mutual use of laboratory facilities," said Dr. Bitar.

Buying laser equipment is on the whole more favourable economically than building them because of the difficulty involved and the high cost of competing with existing, well-developed markets in the world, according to Dr. Bitar.

"We must therefore concentrate on becoming well-informed on the uses of lasers and their applications, and the first international laser conference which took place four years ago (in Amman) had the same objectives," said Dr. Bitar.

As far as other fellow Arab countries are concerned, "lasers are used in all the Arab World," Dr. Bitar said.

"Iraqis have skills and knowledge to build low energy laser equipment for mainly educational purposes, and they are in fact doing that," said K.

Ibrahim, a consultant of laser research.

"In Syria, research is currently done on the industrial applications of laser. Lasers are widely used in communications, eye-surgery, kidney-stone destruction and endoscopy. Two valuable research projects are being conducted on the use of lasers in detecting submarines and in producing a map of Syria depicting regions of abundant natural resources, in cooperation with the Russians," said Dr. Nassour.

Sunday's sessions at the second international Conference on the Use of Laser in science and technology involved around 20 technical working papers on various laser-related materials and many laser designs including a paper on a portable laser-holographic interferometer. (An instrument for measuring wave lengths by means of interference phenomena).

The 3-day conference, which began Saturday, is being hosted by the Faculty of Science at the University of Jordan and the Applied Science University.

Literati take up the novel in Jordan

By Angham Tamimi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — One of the most distinguished symposiums held during the fifth Fuhais Festival was "The Novel in Jordan" in which novelists Ramadan Rawashdeh, and Mu'nis Razzaz as well as critic Nazeeh Abu Nidal participated.

Rather than critique the novel in Jordan, which he sees as the responsibility of the critic, Mr. Rawashdeh critiqued the critic.

The recent winner of the Najib Mahfouz Prize for Art, Mr. Rawashdeh, 31, said "critics turn their backs on young writers."

Literary criticism in Jordan is unfair and unjust, he said, adding that the political situation plays a major role in blocking the way of genuine criticism.

To build a solid basis for criticism, Mr. Rawashdeh called for critics to exercise neutrality, and put aside personal relations that could affect their judgement.

"It is so important for a writer to be appreciated in his own country," said Mr. Rawashdeh. "Why should we wait non-Jordanians to introduce Jordanian works to us? And why should we wait for a writer to die in order to rejudge his career and then offer him a gold medal posthumously?"

The problem raised by Mr. Rawashdeh is not exclusive to Jordanian writers; it can be applied to all the artists and writers throughout the Arab World. It develops into a fact, not just a permanent phenomenon.

Believing in what Argentine writer Gabriel Garcia Marquez said, that internationality begins from local reality, Mr. Rawashdeh stressed the importance of local opinion rather than the Arab or foreign one.

In his presentation, entitled "The New Literary Text" novelist Mu'nis Razzaz looked at the Arab novel over the last three decades. He believes that there were several attempts to drive the Arab novel to

the bottom after the June 1967 defeat.

Tayseer Sabul's novel, You Since Today, was the first attempt to break away from the solid-rooted literary architecture which was recognised through various Arab literary works like Najib Mahfouz's Trilogy, and some of Tawfiq Yousef Awwad's works.

Thus, "a new generation of novelists came to surface and deconstructed the classical structure," said Mr. Razzaz.

"They were shocked at seeing the Arab World being destroyed after the first confrontation with the enemy. The 1967 defeat revealed the false Arab mottos, the false Arab values and principles."

Many other similar works, said the novelist, were born during the events of September 1970 in Jordan and the civil war in Lebanon in 1973.

The great Arab writers were likewise influenced by those movements.

Some of Najib Mahfouz's

works included symbolism, myths and uselessness, but he woke up from his nap and headed in the right direction again, according to Mr. Razzaz.

The Gulf war, he said, topped all the previous crises in the Arab World. It led to complete destruction regarding political and military aspects, Mr. Razzaz said. "Keeping this in mind, there is no doubt that it will cause a more serious quake than that of June 1967," he added.

The novelist said he expected that "Ramadan Rawashdeh will be leading the second rebel-novel movement."

As for critic Nazeeh Abu Nidal, he believes that the novel in Jordan is part of the Arab novel.

No Jordanian novel can be considered Jordanian, rather it belongs to the whole Arab World because it reflects its belonging to this particular area regardless of the regional movements that try to deprive Jordan of its Arab identity.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FUHAIS FIFTH FESTIVAL

- * Concert by vocalist Lutfi Bushnag of Tunisia at the main theatre, off the Greek Orthodox Convent at 21:00.
- * Seminar in Arabic entitled "Jordanian Contribution to the Contemporary Arab Thought" with the participation of Mr. Mazen Al Saket, Mr. Muwaffaq Mahadin, and Mr. Ghassan Abdul Khaliq at the festival site at 19:00.
- * Exhibition of Jordanian scripts, documents, and books.
- * Abstract art paintings exhibition by Sa'wa Amman, Darya Zetifa, Norma Hattar, and Ilias Tu'meh.
- * Exhibition on the city of Salt.
- * Caricature drawings exhibition by Imad Hajjaj, Kifah Mahmood, and Khalid Gharabeh.
- * Exhibition of handicrafts.
- * Comprehensive agricultural exhibition (held for the first time with the participation of the private and public sectors).

FOLKLORIC DANCE

- * Folkloric dance by Al Hammamah band at the Royal Cultural Centre at 20:00.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Exhibition of new paintings by Diana Shamounki at The Gallery, Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel (8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.).
- * Exhibition of paintings by Omar Hamdan Shahman at Darat Al Funn of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lweidbeh. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).
- * Exhibition of caricature drawings by cartoonist Hussein Al Farra at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel. 695291).
- * Exhibition of oil paintings by Princess Wijdan Ali at the Balqa' Art Gallery in Fuhais (10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 720677).
- * Exhibition of water paints by Sudanese artist Abdul Qadir Al Bakhit at Baladna Art Gallery, Garden Street (Tel. 687598).
- * Exhibition entitled "Environmental Technologies: A Travelling Information Centre" at the American Center.
- * Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at Orfali Art Gallery in Umm Utheina (Tel. 626932).

JORDAN FERTILIZER INDUSTRY COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Jordan Phosphate Mines Company **Arab Potash Company**

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THE PEOPLE OF INDIA

A HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

AFFIRMING JORDANIAN FRIENDSHIP AND HOPES OF CONTINUED PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY

Bosnian rivals sign accord to stop sniping in Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnia's rival Serbs and Muslims Sunday signed a U.N.-brokered accord to halt sniping in Sarajevo within 24 hours and pledged to patrol high-risk areas with U.N. peacekeepers to stop disobedient marksmen.

"The sides shall undertake within 24 hours to issue publicly orders which explicitly forbid sniping activities against military personnel, civilians and U.N. personnel in the Sarajevo region," the agreement said.

The accord, the result of weeks of work by the U.N. Protection Force to end one of Sarajevo's deadliest plagues, was signed by Serb and Muslim political, military and police commanders and UNPROFOR chiefs.

The sides pledged to form joint patrols with UNPROFOR to flush out snipers who disobey orders.

"The sides shall insist that UNPROFOR take appropriate measures relating to the detection of sniping activities on both sides of the confrontation line," the agreement said.

The threat of NATO air

strikes against the besieging Serbs in February forced them to withdraw heavy weapons from around Sarajevo, ending shelling of the Bosnian capital. But snipers on both sides continued to target civilians and maintain tensions.

Earlier as the meeting kicked-off, a sniper continued to ply his deadly trade around the Holiday Inn Hotel in the centre of the town forcing civilians to run for cover.

It was not immediately clear how the anti-sniping accord would work. Many marksmen act alone, lurking in lofts and firing at will when targets appear below on the streets.

Bosnian Serb forces tried to raid three U.N. weapons depots outside Sarajevo, threatening a United Nations Security zone around the capital, but French peacekeepers stood their ground.

The latest Serb attempts to seize back heavy weapons took place a week after NATO punished one theft with an air strike.

In the Serb stronghold of

Pale, outside Sarajevo, U.N. mediator Thorvald Stoltenberg failed to get Bosnian Serb leaders to alter their rejection of an international peace plan, drawn up by "contact group" officials of major powers.

Asked after meeting Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic if he was still optimistic over prospects for peace, Mr. Stoltenberg said: "I must tell you I certainly have not lost hope. But the basis for peace must be the contact group plan."

Mr. Karadzic again rejected the plan's proposed division of Bosnia into roughly equal parts implying Serb withdrawal from a third of the 70 per cent of the country they currently hold.

Two U.N. food convoys arrived in Sarajevo Saturday, the first for a month. The city faces severe shortages with the relief airlift suspended and land routes closed by rebel Serbs.

A spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees welcomed the arrival of the convoys in Sarajevo.

"We need more convoys like this. Right now we are

simply out of food. It won't do much to Sarajevo's stocks but at a time like this we'll take it where we can get it," said spokesman Peter Kesler.

Bosnian Serb authorities had blocked all convoys into the city for more than a month. Small arms fire shut Sarajevo's airport and halted a vital air relief operation Thursday only two days after it resumed following an 18-day break.

Other convoys entered Serb-held areas of Bosnia and reached three isolated Muslim enclaves after U.N. aid officials said they had won agreement for free passage from rump Yugoslavia.

A convoy bound for Srebrenica crossed into Bosnian Serb territory Sunday after Bosnian Serbs seized 400 kg of nails.

Yugoslav border police had stopped U.N. relief convoys from crossing the frontier as part of a blockade of Bosnian Serbs by Serbia's President Slobodan Milosevic, angered by the refusal of his former proteges in Pale to accept the peace plan.



Prime Minister of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto (centre) and Turkmenistan President Sakhat Niyazov meet with children after the flag-hoisting ceremony held to mark Pakistan's 48th Independence Day (AFP photo)

Pakistan wants arms reduction in region

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said Sunday Pakistan wants a regional ban on weapons of mass destruction and significant cutbacks in conventional arms.

But in a speech marking Pakistan's 47th independence anniversary, she said her country, at odds with India over Kashmir, had to defend itself against its larger neighbour.

"The stability and security of South Asia require that it not only be free from weapons of mass destruction, there should also be a significant reduction in conventional weapons."

"For this, our proposals are still lying at the table," she told dignitaries outside parliament in Islamabad, where visiting Turkmenistan President Sakhat Niyazov was guest of honour.

Describing the Kashmir dispute as an "unfinished agenda" from the sub-continent's partition at independence in 1947, she said Pakistan will always support Kashmiris fighting India rule.

Ms. Bhutto urged India to hold talks with Pakistan to settle the dispute by means of U.N.-mandated plebiscite. India, which holds two-thirds of the Himalayan region, has rejected this.

She accused India of building up its forces in Kashmir to crush a four-year-old revolt by Muslim militants seeking outright independence or union with Pakistan, and said New Delhi's tests of advanced missiles had "sent a wave of unease through

Asia."

Recalling Pakistan's three wars with India — two over Kashmir — since the two countries won independence from Britain, Ms. Bhutto said: "We face a country five to six times bigger in resources which seeks to become the world's third-largest military power despite the hunger and poverty of its people."

She said a social action programme was Islamabad's top priority, but said Pakistan Muslims would prefer to go hungry than to "live like slaves."

Pakistan has said it wants to work for global and regional peace but could not compromise on its security or accept discriminatory conditions over its nuclear programme to persuade the United States to resume arms supplies cut off in 1990.

Pakistan says it is able to make nuclear weapons but has decided not to do so. It refuses to sign the international nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty unless India, which exploded a nuclear device in 1974, also does.

"Pakistan cannot take any unilateral step on the nuclear issue, because it is linked with our security. And when we talk of security, we talk of the unfinished agenda of partition," Ms. Bhutto said.

In 1947 Britain carved out Pakistan from the Muslim-majority areas of former British India, but left the fate of mainly Muslim Kashmir unresolved.

India says Kashmir is an integral part of its territory.

Islamabad says Kashmiris must decide in a U.N. plebiscite whether to join Pakistan or secular, but Hindu-majority India.

Ms. Bhutto said India's 1974 nuclear test had spread "the clouds of nuclear proliferation over the sub-continent" and force her father, then Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, to order a nuclear programme for Pakistan.

"Now India is trying to change the missile status quo. If it is not stopped, there can be a danger of missile proliferation in the sub-continent," she said.

Ms. Bhutto said Pakistan desired good relations with the United States but would not compromise its security interests, the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) said.

The two countries share views on nuclear non-proliferation and peace in South Asia but "no condition can be attached towards achieving these objectives," she said.

Ms. Bhutto said her country was prepared to cooperate with President Bill Clinton's administration but Washington should understand that Pakistan could not take unilateral steps owing to the regional situation, it added.

Her remarks came amid reports that the United States would not supply F-16 fighter aircraft to Pakistan until Islamabad is verified to have suspended its nuclear programme. Pakistan has already paid \$658 million for 38 planes under a 1989 deal.

Mexican candidates pledge to oust ruling party

MEXICO CITY (R) — Mexico's two main opposition parties formally closed their presidential campaigns Saturday with pledges to end 65 years of one-party rule by the governing Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI).

Leftist leader Cuauhtemoc Cardenas injected a defiant note into the end of his campaign, warning the Mexican government not to cheat in the Aug. 21 elections.

"If that happens, I pledge to summon and lead a civil resistance movement, mobilise our forces throughout the republic and draw on all the means given to us by the constitution to defend the nation and its citizens," Cardenas told more than 100,000 supporters massed in Mexico city's historic centre.

"We won't tolerate another... unelected government like the current one. We won't be humiliated and ridiculed," he added.

Conservative candidate Diego Fernandez De Ceval-

los of the National Action Party, in a smaller rally marred by rain later in the day, made no reference to potential fraud but told his supporters:

"Mexico cannot carry on with a series of six-year monarchies... it is not a leap into the darkness which we propose, but a leap into freedom and democracy."

Mexican presidents serve a single six-year term during which they enjoy almost limitless powers.

Mr. Fernandez offered to call a referendum on his government after one year in power if he wins "so that the people can decide whether there has been change whether I carry on as president or go home."

Both men spoke at the vast plaza known as the Zocalo, the centre of both modern Mexican City and the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan on which it is built. PRI candidate Ernesto Zedillo closes his campaign there Sunday.

Haiti bars news reports from foreign embassies

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — In the latest attempt to muzzle Haitian journalists, the military-backed government has barred local media from reporting statements made by foreign ambassadors.

Violators would be subject to prosecution, Information Minister Jacques St. Louis said in a statement broadcast on local radio.

Mr. St. Louis said the government's power to stop such reporting comes from the state of siege declared by army-backed de facto President Emile Jonassaint on July 31.

The measure, which followed a government warning to local media not to report "alarmist" news, was a "foreseeable hardening" of the government's line toward the media, one radio station director told the Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

The ban was immediately denounced by human rights

groups as "pathetic and ill-conceived."

The acting director of the New York-based group Human Rights Watch, Kenneth Roth, said the order was targeted specifically at the U.S. embassy and particularly embassy spokesman Stanley Schragger. Mr. Schragger's nearly daily statements to Haitian reporters have provided alternative information to Haitians and angered supporters to the 1991 military coup.

"(The government) sees that the end is near, and would not resort to such desperate measures if they felt any security about their future," Mr. Roth said, referring to the possibility of a U.S. invasion to restore constitutional government.

Radio Democracy, the U.S.-supported broadcasts by exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, will be unaffected by the ban.

Attempts to reach Mr. Schragger were unsuccessful.

Music rocks on at Woodstock '94

SAUGERTIES, NY (R) — The security system fell apart, the rains came down hard on the big name act of the day but the music rocked on into the early hours of Sunday at Woodstock '94.

With elaborate security plans and a comprehensive transportation system near collapse, organisers appeared thwarted in their attempt to avoid the logistical nightmare that helped make the original Woodstock a legend.

But the rain was the worst enemy of the day, turning the green fields into mudpits that made it difficult for the crowd of an estimated 250,000 to 300,000 to get around.

"A lot of people are slipping and falling and breaking their ankles," said medical coordinator Bill Medvecky. The rain came back just as Aerosmith, the headline act of the night, was about to go on at 1:15 a.m. EDT (0515 GMT) an hour behind schedule.

But the music was only briefly delayed and few

among the tens of thousands who had waited patiently for the rock veterans fled in the face of the downpour.

Many donned parkas, ponchos or plastic bags, but others just stood happily bouncing up and down to the music getting wet.

"We should have one of these every year," Aerosmith lead singer Steven Tyler told a packed news conference.

The crowd kept its good humour despite the overcast food service system, that left some stands with no more than sandwiches consisting of American cheese on hamburger rolls.

Authorities said that one 44-year-old man died of a heart attack after suffering from diabetes complications. Some 750 were treated at nearby hospitals for a variety of ailments, but an Ulster County Health Department official said none of the medical cases were caused by violence.

Concert officials put a positive light on events, saying

the perimeter was secure despite clear evidence that people were walking in at will, many carrying alcohol, which was ostensibly banned.

They also lowered their estimate of the crowd to 250,000 late Saturday, the number of people allowed under the agreement reached with state and local officials to hold the event.

Asked about the change, concert producer John Scher said that any figure was "just guessing."

A state police spokesman said "we will never know how many were here."

Local residents, who have passes allowing them to drive near the festival site, were doing a good business charging kids \$10 to ferry them from nearby towns, a festival official said.

Michael Lang, an organiser of the original Woodstock and this one, said he saw a new generational spirit emerging out of Woodstock '94.



Thousands of music lovers pack into the concert site of Woodstock '94 in Saugerties New York. Promoters of the concert estimate the crowd size at 250,000 (AFP photo)

"It is going to be a 72-hour birth but it is happening," he said.

A Russian immigrant temporarily stole the show at Woodstock '94 Saturday by

getting married on the stage. Victoria Sukhanov, formerly of Moscow, tossed her bouquet into a crowd of cheering thousands when she married Maurice Methot at the 25th anniversary concert of the festival that celebrated peace, music, and love, but not necessarily marriage.

The couple had planned to wed in their hometown of Providence, Rhode Island, when their best man, Ivano Leoncavallo, an MTV news producer, told them he could not attend the ceremony because he was going to Woodstock.

They decided immediately that it was the perfect venue in which to tie the knot.

They were pronounced man and wife on the MTV stage in front of an estimated crowd of some 300,000 and myriad cameras.

The groom 37, said it was "the wildest" experience of his life.

"I kept my (wedding) dress in my backpack all day," said the bride, 30, who wore a long white gown and a crown of plastic autumn leaves in her hair.

The two had known each other for three years, when they decided to tie the knot at Woodstock '94.

"My mother didn't really like the idea," said Methot, the groom. The bride said her parents couldn't watch the ceremony "because they don't have cable television."

But both promised to give a tape of the ceremony to their parents.

The beaming bride, Victoria, said: "We will definitely bring our children to the next reunion."

The wedding was a high point halfway through the Woodstock '94 music festival. Meanwhile, thousands of 60's love children bypassed the much-hyped Woodstock '94 festival Saturday to make a pilgrimage to the town of Bethel, where hundreds of thousands of them rocked at the original bash.

While Woodstock tee shirts were being hawked in Saugerties for \$5 a pop, free food was being passed out 80 kilometres away in Bethel, more in keeping with the spirit of free love of 25 years ago.

"People are so friendly," enthused Rachel Shuspan. The 14-year-old was accompanying her parents Marc and Rozalyn who said they fell in love at the first concert.

Hippies from both generations stroll peacefully down

the walkways formed by the rows of cars parked along the hillside, where some 400,000 youths spent three days of sex, drugs and rock and roll in 1969.

The biggest attraction here is a commemorative plaque erected in 1984 which reads: "This is the original site of the Woodstock Music And Art Fair."

Anniversary events had been planned at both sites, but the show at the original site was cancelled when "purists" balked at holding the Pepsi Cola-sponsored event, which cost more than \$100 a ticket, at the hallowed Bethel grounds.

Still, many people converged on the rolling hills here, some hired by wild rumours broadcast over radio stations.

Rock stars from the original concert were to swoop down on Bethel in helicopters and even the Rolling Stones currently on tour in the area were going to pop in, according to the stories.

None of this was confirmed, of course, but Keith Holden, a 27-year-old musician with the British group Spanglehead, is a true believer.

"Woodstock is a magic word," he said.

Fight drug dealers, leave the addicts alone — minister

COPENHAGEN (AP) — Danish justice officials have told police to fight big-time drug dealers and leave addicts alone, newspapers reported Saturday.

The admonition was aimed at narcotics squads who may be spending too much time chasing addicts, the Copenhagen daily Politiken said. Drugs are not legal in Denmark, but police usually let people possess a tiny amount of hashish for personal use.

General Prosecutor Asbjorn Jensen sent a letter to the country's 54 police districts in June reiterating a 1969 directive which virtually shields hashish smokers, a government spokesman told the newspaper.

"We did so to tell (the police) that they don't need to crack down so hard on the users as it seems to be the case," said Karsten Hjorth, spokesman for the General Prosecutor's Office. Justice Minister Erling Olsen said he also supported that approach.

"I support the general prosecutor 100 per cent. We cannot combat drugs by fighting drug addicts. They are poor souls and the kingpins are crooks," Mr. Olsen told the Jyllands-Posten daily. The step does not legalise the use of drugs.

Only parliament can lift the ban and a majority would not support it. The development caused a stir in neighbouring Sweden, where the minister of social affairs, Bengt Westerberg, said it was "very unfortunate."

"I'm afraid this may only be a first step and that it will increase the supply of narcotics," Mr. Westerberg told the Swedish daily Aftonbladet. Narcotics police inspector Morgan Jansson in the town of Göteborg, said "it would be like legalising drugs. It will have severe repercussions on our side. Christianity — the ageing hippie city in the middle of Copenhagen — is Denmark's largest hashish market, attracting both Danes and Swedes."

Gen. Lebed, a Russian military officer, might quit the army to get married.

He said the announced last should be delayed to a final pact between a breakaway region, where the Russian military is stationed.

The separatist movement last year was downgraded by the division by the headquarters of the 300 official units without it.

On Aug. 15, the Russian military officer, might quit the army to get married.

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A crowd gathers at the site of the original Woodstock to hear a free concert in Bethel, New York. Thousands gathered at the farm hoping to hear some of the performers who sang 25 years ago (AFP photo)

World News

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 1994 5

NATO allies start search to replace Woerner

BRUSSELS (R) — Western leaders have paid generous tribute to NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner but now face the difficult task of finding someone to replace the man who led the alliance into a new role after the cold war.

Mr. Woerner lost his two-year battle against cancer and died at home in Brussels Saturday. He was 59. Mr. Woerner was the first German to head the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) since it was founded 45 years ago and had held the job for six years.

Barely one month after a bruising and divisive battle to find the successor to Jacques Delors as president of the European Commission, European allies, the United States and Canada must now agree on a candidate for the top NATO job.

NATO sources said they expected meetings to discuss the issue within the next few weeks. The United States, the 16-nation alliance's senior member, commands the military wing of NATO but a European has always held the

top political post. Mr. Woerner's replacement will need strong leadership and diplomatic skills at a time when NATO is deeply involved in Bosnia and in trying to build security across Europe — new goals the former West German defence minister had championed.

Dutch Defence Minister Rijkman Groenendaal said Sunday it was not yet the right time to take up the issue but acknowledged that replacing Mr. Woerner would not be easy for the 16 allies.

"It is important that the void he has left should be filled quickly," Mr. Ter Beek told the Dutch News Agency (ANP). "We need to find a successor of at least the same calibre as Woerner."

His forceful leadership, including a drive to establish far-reaching cooperation with former Warsaw Pact foes, was widely respected. Tributes flowed from the United States, Germany, Britain, Italy, Portugal, Belgium and the Netherlands.

During Mr. Woerner's absence at NATO in the last few

months, two names have emerged as possible front-runners — Thorvald Stoltenberg, a former Norwegian foreign minister who is U.N. peace mediator in former Yugoslavia, and former Italian Prime Minister Giuliano Amato.

NATO is now working with the United Nations in former Yugoslavia and diplomats say Mr. Stoltenberg would be a good candidate for that reason. In addition, Norway has never held the post of secretary-general.

Italy's Amato has not been dragged into the corruption scandal which humbled many of the country's top politicians. Italy has had the top NATO job once before.

Diplomats said that, as a Socialist, Mr. Amato is also suitably distanced from international concern over the extreme-right members of Italy's new coalition government.

Outgoing former Dutch Premier Ruud Lubbers, who failed in his efforts to replace Delors at the European Commission, has also been mentioned. But a spokesman for

Mr. Lubbers said Sunday he would probably not be a candidate.

Mr. Lubbers's former foreign minister, Hans Van Den Broek, is now in charge of foreign policy at the European Commission but is widely believed to be interested. But the Netherlands has already held the top NATO job twice.

Other names mentioned at NATO include British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind and Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes.

Diplomats said it was vital to avoid any repeat of the embarrassing row over Mr. Delors's successor. Britain vetoed Belgian Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene and the 12 European Union states finally agreed on Luxembourg Premier Jacques Santer last month.

NATO Deputy Secretary-General Sergio Balanzino, an Italian bureaucrat, will head the alliance until a successor is found. For now, allied leaders are paying tribute to Woerner.

Afghan Mujahedeen are 'ready to defend' Chechenya

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Afghan Mujahedeen are prepared to defend Chechenya against any attempt by Moscow to "invade" the small breakaway Muslim republic, Interfax News Agency reported Saturday quoting a Chechen leader.

Chechen "foreign minister" Shamseddin Yusef told the news agency that Afghan leaders Hassan Anturabi and Abdul Majid Azandani had promised to send up to 100,000 fighters to fight against Russia.

The involvement of Afghan guerrillas would leave Russia with a problem "which could last for decades... because it's easier to bring the Mujahedeen in than to chase them out," Mr. Yusef said.

Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev said last week that Moscow was prepping to "invade" Chechenya by Sept. 6 the third anniversary of the

Caucasian republic's unilateral declaration of independence from the Russian Federation.

Mr. Dudayev declared martial law Thursday and ordered a general mobilisation to counter what he said was an impending Russian attack.

Mr. Dudayev said half a million men in Chechenya were ready to give their lives in a jihad, or holy war, against Russia, and closed Chechen air space to all unauthorised flights.

However analysts said the move might also be aimed at neutralising Mr. Dudayev's own opposition which with Moscow's support announced at the beginning of August that it had "overthrown" him.

The opposition has set up a shadow government northwest of the capital Grozny. Interfax said earlier Saturday that the Moscow-backed Provisional Council in

Chechenya was mobilising "volunteers" and buying arms to form a "people's militia."

The Provisional Council had acquired two helicopters and was in the process of buying armoured vehicles, Interfax said, quoting the group's press department.

The council did not say where it got the military equipment or who might join the militia. However the opposition has acknowledged receiving money from Moscow.

Interfax quoted an unidentified source as saying the shadow government had begun stockpiling food, medicine and clothes for both the future militia and civilians.

Meanwhile the council's main leader Umar Ayurkhonov met late Friday with Russian Khasbulatov, the former Russian parliamentary speaker who led the October 1993 revolt against Russian President Boris Yeltsin in Mos-

cow. Mr. Khasbulatov returned to his native Chechenya at the beginning of the week, purportedly to mediate in the crisis.

Interfax said he and Mr. Avturkhanov had agreed on measures to normalise the situation in Chechenya.

Mr. Khasbulatov, one of President Boris Yeltsin's bitterest foes and once the second most powerful man in Russia, is dipping his toe back into politics — locally, in his native Chechenya.

The former Russian parliament chairman, released from a Moscow jail six months ago under an amnesty, appeared at a rally in Chechenya Saturday.

Half-surrounded by heavily-armed bodyguards, he demanded an hour on Chechen Television to further his efforts to prevent the crisis in the breakaway south Russian region becoming bloody.

Russian general slams Moldova pullout plan

TRASPOL, Moldova (R) — The commander of Russian troops in Moldova Sunday denounced plans by his government to cut back his headquarters and withdraw his army back to Russia within three years.

Lieutenant-General Alexander Lebed told a news conference an army shake-up ordered by Moscow last month and a withdrawal plan agreed last week between Russia and Moldova would lead to an explosive situation, arms trafficking and banditry.

Gen. Lebed, a charismatic 42-year-old paratrooper who is Russia's most popular military officer, suggested he might quit the army unless he managed to get the decision reversed.

He said the withdrawal, announced last Wednesday, should be delayed until there was a final political settlement between Moldova and its breakaway Dnestr Region, where the 15,000 troops of the Russian 14th Army are stationed.

The separate decision to downgrade the army to a division by removing its headquarters staff of more than 200 officers had been taken without the knowledge

of Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, he said.

"If you cut off the head of an organism and expect it to stay alive it is just utopia," he said. "This is a crime which can make the situation here explosive."

Gen. Lebed said the decision to disband the headquarters was taken just as he went on leave on July 22. He blamed it on other unnamed persons in the Russian Defence Ministry with political motives.

The controversial general played down suggestions he was aiming for a political career. One of his aides forecast in an interview with Reuters last week that he would be Russia's next president.

"Russia's defence minister is a clever man. I hope he will solve the problem," said Gen. Lebed, indicating he hoped public pressure would force Gen. Grachev to veto the reorganisation.

Military experts say the 14th Army effectively consists of only one division and could be commanded by a lower-ranking officer. Gen. Lebed made clear he saw the "hasty and unexpected" decision as a means of forcing him out.

Allied ships commemorate landings in South France

PREJUS, France (R) — Thirty-three allied warships steamed along the coast of the French Riviera Sunday to honour veterans of the Provence landing 50 years ago that hastened the end of the Nazi occupation of Europe.

Fourteen African heads of state joined host President Francois Mitterrand on the French aircraft carrier Foch to review the flotilla, commemorating the World War II landing.

On Aug. 15, 1944, 10 weeks after the D-Day landing in northern France, 90,000 allied soldiers landed in Provence, briefly turning the southern coast into a battleground.

The Provence landing has lived ever since in the shadow of the bigger and bloodier Normandy landing that preceded it.

But the French view it with particular pride because three-quarters of the 400,000 troops who eventually came ashore in Provence were free French forces from Italy and Africa.

Defence Minister Francois Leotard said the landing was also a turning point for France in the war because it convinced allied commanders that free French leader General Charles De Gaulle had the ear of the French people and would be able to lead the provisional government after France's liberation.

"The Liberation Army achieved its most exalted dream, which was to return to, and liberate, its homeland which had been humiliated for the previous four years by the occupying forces," Mr. Leotard said in a statement.

Many of the French in the campaign were soldiers from the then French colonies in northern and western Africa, who were being given a special focus in the ceremonies. In attendance to honour their contribution Sunday were the president from 14 African countries — Benin,

Burkina-Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Djibouti, Gabon, Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

High-ranking dignitaries also were expected from Algeria, the Comoros, Congo, Ivory Coast, Morocco and Tunisia.

The United States, which sent President Bill Clinton to the Normandy celebrations in June, was represented by its ambassador to France Pamela Harriman. Britain's Queen Elizabeth, who attended the Normandy anniversary, dispatched her second son, the Duke of York, to Provence.

While the Normandy landing cost massive losses, the Provence campaign was achieved with far less bloodshed.

There were pockets of fierce German resistance but the Nazis, reeling from intense attacks on other fronts, lost their hold on the region in weeks. Nearly 3,000 Germans were taken prisoners and about 800 allied soldiers died.

The liberating forces later swept east to Nice and north up the Rhone Valley to Dijon much faster than they had expected, eventually linking up with the forces from Normandy.

Allied commanders initially planned for the two operations — "Hammer" in Normandy and "Anvil" in Provence — to take place simultaneously. At the last minute, the names were changed to "overlord" and "dragoon" to confuse Nazi spies.

while "overlord" kicked off on June 6, "Dragoon" was delayed for strategic and logistical reasons and almost cancelled altogether. To the end, British leader Winston Churchill tried to scuttle it, arguing for an allied push toward Vienna instead.

Ceremonies honouring the war dead will take place Monday in Dragmeon, Cavalaire and Dragmeon, followed by an air show from a French in Hyeres.

Jordan Steel Company

Public shareholding company

Signs an agreement with the Italian

POMINI Company

under which terms the Italian company will equip the Jordan steel factory with the most up-to-date machinery and equipment in the field of steel industries.

Production date

the second half of 1995

Factory location

Al Hashimiya, Zarqa governorate, near Al Hussein Thermal Station. The factory is established on 300 dunums of land

Production lines

- ★ Construction steel bars of various sizes and types
- ★ Iron used by blacksmiths

Production capacity

- ★ 60 tonnes per hour
- ★ Annual production capacity is 300,000 tonnes

Future plans

Producing wire rods
Adding an oven to melt junk to produce iron ingots and masses needed for the production process.

Protecting the environment

Establishing a water treatment plant for two purposes:
— Preventing an environmental pollution in the area.
— Rationalising water consumption.



The Italian Pomini Company

Considered one of the largest steel producers in the world and is operating in advanced industrial and Third World countries.

Jordan Steel Company

A public shareholding company with a capital totalling
JD 15,000,000
(15 million Jordanian dinars)

The company's board of directors includes:

1. Mudar Badran/chairman of board of directors
2. Mahdi Hassan Al Saifi/deputy chairman
3. Nizar Abdul Rahim Jardaneh
4. Mohammad Abdul Ghani Al Amad
5. Tawfiq Shaker Fakhouri
6. Mohammad Jawad Hadid
7. Ali Hussein Karim
8. Zuhair Saleh Al Khouri — representative of the Housing Bank.
9. Odeh Nasr Al Khouri
10. Khaled Abdul Karim Al Dahleh
11. Imad Badran.

Jordan Times

Independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

مستقل يومية سياسية عربية نشرت بالانجليزية من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية
تأسست ١٩٧٥

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Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Time is a deadline

LONG last U.S. President Bill Clinton decided to ask the U.S. Congress for authority to declare a unilateral ending of the arms embargo against the Bosnian Muslims. The Bosnian Serbs continue to be intransigent in their attitudes towards peace in the region by October 15. The decision would leave other permanent members of the U.N. Security Council free to observe their own independent embargo against the warring parties in the Bosnian conflict, which might lead Washington on a collision course with those who believe that the sanctions remain vital to the success of the peace talks.

But the timing of President Clinton is interesting all the same. It comes in the wake of the apparent rift between the Bosnian Muslims and their principal allies in Belgrade, who showed their dissatisfaction with the Serbs' rejection of the latest proposal to divide Bosnia up between the Serbs, the Muslims and the Croats.

The threatened change by the Americans would of course tighten the noose around the neck of the Bosnian Serbs and leave them with little choice but to yield to international pressure for territorial compromise. This may explain the rather lengthy grace period extended to them by the U.S. Of course, we have seen many U.S. threats come and go with no real action. President Clinton's credibility is therefore once again on the line. It could be true that the U.S. president is counting on the Bosnian Serbs' cooperation by the deadline set for lifting the arms embargo. It could also suggest that the arms embargo policy never succeeded in influencing the warring parties since it was never seriously observed by any side.

The Bosnian Serbs have been known to refuse to receive weapons and ammunition not only from Belgrade but also from Moscow and other Eastern European countries.

There is little doubt that the Bosnian Muslims too were able to acquire arms and military equipment. In retrospect, the lifting of the arms embargo by Washington may not have changed the military situation but it may have changed the political solution of the Bosnian conflict. This could actually explain why the U.S. decided to wait all these years before lifting its readiness to withdraw support from the arms embargo policy not only because it wanted the aggressor with the victim but because the old policy was not working in the first place.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

DAI Arabic daily Sunday said that peace cannot exist with occupation and there is no alternative to Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Heights and southern Lebanon as well as Jordanian lands to ensure peace and stability in the Middle East. We cannot remain silent also as the continued Israeli aggression on Lebanon, and cannot condone such actions on any Arab country, it stressed. Progress on the Jordanian-Israeli track, the paper, does not mean giving licence to Israel to continue its occupation of Arab lands nor of pursuing its policies on Lebanon and repression against the Palestinian people. Israel should comply with U.N. Security Council Resolution 425 that demands that Israeli forces withdraw from southern Lebanon and other resolutions which call for the end of occupation in exchange for peace, said the daily. It said that Lebanon has declared its total commitment to the peace process and pledged to ensure security and stability in the south, the paper said that there is no justification for further Israeli acts of hostility towards Lebanon. It said the time has come for Israel to understand that peace and occupation can never coexist.

Expressing the reports that 25,000 telephone calls were made between Jordan and the Palestinians living in the occupied Arab territories on the first day of the telephone linkage between the two sides, a columnist in Al Arab said that this fact reflects the bond between the people on both sides of the River Jordan. Taher Al Adwan said that the callers were not contacting one another for business or tourism but rather out of yearning to meet and hear one another because simply they constitute a reunited family. Calling on the Jordanian and Palestinian leaderships to take this into account, the writer said that Jordanian and Palestinian leaderships ought to realise that they have no alternative but to find every possible way to keep the two peoples united since, the writer said, they have the same national interests and destiny. He said that the Palestinian leadership should realise that the Palestinian people are in need of Jordanian leadership in administration, economy, education and other fields, and that Jordanian laws are still in effect in the occupied territories. He said that the two leaderships must ignore the facts and have to work towards terminating all negative aspects that could harm the common goals and interests.

Human Rights File

Limits on freedom of expression

By Walced Sadi

AN IMPORTANT human rights issue surfaced lately before the Human Rights Committee (HRC) which centred on the freedom of expression under Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). This article reads, inter alia, as follows "everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression, this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds... through any media of his choice."

The controversy under this provision arose when a certain individual who owns a private business used a language other than French for his commercial sign at the front of his shop. The country where he happens to live has a law that forbids the use of any language other than French for commercial signs and took therefore judicial measures to stop the man in question from using commercial sign in English. The complainant went to court and exhausted all his domestic remedies. Accordingly he became eligible to submit his complaint to the human rights committee under its first protocol and asked for remedy including the overruling of the highest court of the land on this matter.

The first thing the committee needed to do before it can go into the merits of the case is to establish whether the complainant is a "victim" within the purview of the covenant. To be a victim in the eyes of the ICCPR, the complainant must be an individual since all its articles are addressed only to individuals. The immediate question was whether the plaintiff in this case qualified to appear before the committee. Many members of the HRC were of the opinion that freedom of expression cannot be exercised except through one mean or another, especially newspapers and publications. On the strength of this argument these members found

the complainant as eligible to submit his complaint as a victim because it was not only his company that was affected by the local law that prohibits the use of any language other than French for commercial signs but also his own right to freedom of expression. There was a wide division of opinion on this point with a strong minority that saw no merit in this majority view. So the case would now have an opportunity for adjudication on the basis of its merits. This will take place several months from now.

Meanwhile the 18-member tribunal will have to decide whether the claimant's right to freedom of expression was indeed violated when he was prevented from using a commercial sign expressed in English rather than French. In retrospect, the complaint should have been dropped in my view since it was the company of the person in question that is really the aggrieved party. It is of course conceivable that the owner of the company is also affected by the disputed law but in basic terms it was his company's commercial interests that were affected. True the right to freedom of expression must be exercised through the medium of mass media or signs or whatever, but in this particular case it was the commercial interests of the company that necessitated the preference for the English language in view of the fact that the neighbourhood where the shop is situated is inhabited by English speaking people.

The case I wanted to make here is to show that contrary to general belief, human rights is a complex subject and its examination requires an established jurisprudence and case law. The international community is moving solidly in that direction. There are several treaty bodies which are busy interpreting the provisions of these conventions and making decisions along the way.



Emotions high as German campaign enters final phase

By Tom Heneghan
Reuter

BONN — With red-baiting on the right and satire on the left, the final phase of Germany's election campaign is shaping up more as a mud-slinging match than a debate on the main issues facing the country.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) have been hounding the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) all summer long with witty posters accusing them of playing political games with Eastern Germany's reformed Communists.

The SPD hit back this week with hilarious campaign handouts lampooning the bulky chancellor and bitter speeches denouncing him as a Trojan horse for a nationalist revival.

Pressing issues like unemployment, crime or Germany's new role in the world are taking a back seat in the public debate.

"This is turning into the dirtiest election campaign we have ever seen in the post-war period," said Erwin Scheuch, a prominent Cologne University sociologist and critic of the established parties.

"They are just campaigning on moods, not debating the real issues," he told a radio interviewer.

Pollster Hans-Juergen Hoffmann said three-quarters of the voters considered unemployment the most pressing issue and only one-quarter thought the election campaign was serious and fair.

The CDU turned old-fashioned red-baiting into an art in July with a wry poster showing a red sock on a clothesline and saying "into the future — but not in red socks."

In German political jargon, the "red socks" are eastern Germany's reform Communists. The hint is that the SPD is seeking their secret backing to get into power.

The SPD, recalling that Mr. Kohl hosted the only visit by an East German Communist leader to Bonn, then issued posters and postcards showing the chancellor with a floppy red sock hanging off his head like a silly nightcap.

One shows the East German leader, Erich Honecker, telling Mr. Kohl: "Helmut, your sock is slipping." Rudolf Scharping, the normally soft-spoken SPD

challenger, has also begun saying Mr. Kohl planned to step down in 1996 to make way for his apparent Wolfgang Schäuble, the CDU parliamentary leader whose staunchly conservative and patriotic views are an anathema to the left.

A glance at the opinion polls is enough to show why scharping swapped his moderate approach for shriller tones.

The latest poll by the Allensbach Group this week showed Mr. Kohl's centre-right government with an absolute majority — 50.2 per cent — compared to only 42.8 per cent for a possible coalition of the SPD and the ecologist Greens.

If confirmed by other leading pollsters, this trend would finally put an end to speculation about a grand coalition of CDU and SPD, an unwanted alliance that would be the Social Democrats' last chance at even half a voice in government.

Most other leading polls see Mr. Kohl's 12-year coalition falling just short of a majority, leaving open the possibility he might have to share power with the SPD.

Mr. Kohl acknowledged last week this could come

about while Mr. Scharping's ritual rejection of any such deal gets more heated with every poll showing it to be the most likely outcome.

In a curious twist, the CDU's "red socks" poster has opened up a whole new debate over whether the western-led parties are in touch with eastern voters. Eastern CDU party branches say the poster actually helps the Communists and refuse to use it.

"The more uncertain the result is, the more passion the politicians show," Mr. Scheuch observed. "You can't expect any real debate, so you switch to polemics."

"The politicians' advisers are to blame for telling them that a campaign is like an advertising drive for a new wash powder," he added. "The main aim is to impress your own party and you do that with shrill speeches."

Mr. Scheuch said the mud-slinging appeared even worse than in earlier general elections, but still not as bad as it could be.

"German politics don't really get that vulgar," he said. "England is a much worse example of that."

Desperate days in Cuba

By John Rice
The Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — The square-bowed little ferries are growing across Havana harbour again, though passengers must pass a police pat-down and metal detectors in board.

Call anyone in Havana and they can tell you potatoes have arrived at the city's markets, where shoppers are rationed to a bit more than a pound.

And there was a free concert scheduled this week to celebrate President Fidel Castro's 60th birthday, out near the old Spanish Port, where the Caribbean slaps the Havana seafarers and Cubans squint across the glimmering sea towards Miami.

Yet things are dangerously far from normal.

A waterfront riot Aug. 5 at the site of the concert, as well as a series of violent hijackings of the ferries and other boats, have frightened Cuba's government — and that of the United States, faced with the threat of a refugee onslaught.

American officials once blockaded the island to keep Soviet missiles out of Cuba. Now U.S. officials are drafting naval operations to keep Cubans out of Florida.

Several independent Cuba experts say it is too early to predict an explosive end to Mr. Castro's rule. But they aren't willing to rule it out.

And Mr. Castro's repeated threats over the past week to end restrictions on emigration, risking chaos at home and a showdown with the United States, show he is worried as well.

"I think to some degree what happened (the riot) in Havana the other day is a watershed," said Andrew Zimbalist, an economist and Cuba specialist at Smith College.

Desperation brought on by Cuba's faltering economy has increased to the point that a few Cubans are willing to use guns against members of the feared security forces, to riot in the streets of old Havana.

"The scale of public opposition... is starting to rise," said Susan Eckstein, a Boston College sociologist

and author of "Back from the Future: Cuba Under Castro."

"Citizens are more willing to take risks than before," she said, adding that once a riot happens it "adds to the likelihood of it happening again."

Four years after the collapse of the Soviet Union robbed him of economic and ideological support, Mr. Castro is thrashing about for a way to save the revolution which brought him to the head of the nation in 1959.

Mr. Castro, who often ends speeches with the cry of "socialism or death," last week suggested that even Socialists might be negotiable.

"We would be ready to sacrifice our particular preferences, such as Socialism, for integration (with other Latin American countries), peace and social justice," he was quoted as telling the Madrid daily El Pais.

Pro-government purists have been hurt by reforms that legalised dollars and some private businesses. The pesos paid by state companies are almost worthless. Even Communists have to dabble in dollars on the black market in order to buy meat for the table or spare parts for their bicycles.

The new class of private entrepreneurs, meanwhile, has suffered from bureaucratic crackdowns and tax increases.

The economy seems to have stopped its five-year fall. But the reforms have increased inequality and raised prices. Officials are even debating an income tax.

"The rules of the game have shifted abruptly toward the rules of the marketplace and the jungle, and people are being very competitive with each other," Mr. Zimbalist said.

Even Cuba's proud social services are suffering. Schools are short of notebooks and pencils. Hospitals lack medicines.

"The social fabric... and all of the values that people supposedly had been inculcated with are being undermined," Mr. Zimbalist said. "It generates these increasing levels of protest and dissatisfaction."

U.S.-North Korea accord signals changes in Asia

By Lee Su-Wan
Reuter

SEOUL — The Nuclear Safeguards Agreement between the United States and North Korea holds out some hope of détente on the Korean peninsula after decades of hostility, analysts said on Sunday.

They said Stalinist North Korea had scored a coup by winning U.S. agreement to work towards diplomatic recognition, starting with representatives in each other's capital.

The United States, which has more than 36,000 troops in South Korea, secured a promise from the North to freeze its existing nuclear programme — which the West suspects is aimed at making bombs — in return for new reactor technology.

"The agreement will prove a turning point in shaping new order. Confrontation will give way to cooperation in Northeast Asia," said Yoon Yong-Kwan, a political science professor at Seoul National University.

Mr. Yoon and other analysts said an eventual normalisation of ties between Washington and Pyongyang would have a snowball effect, with Japan and Western countries following suit.

"The U.S.-North Korean deal signals fundamental change. I believe efforts by the two Koreas to end hostilities will gather pace," said analyst Kim Jae-Hoon. "There is bound to be a new mood of détente if the North opens its doors and joins the rest of the world."

mood of dialogue will prevail in Northeast Asia as the nuclear problem shows signs of settlement," said Dong-a Ilbo in an editorial.

Korea has been a focus of superpower tensions since the peninsula was divided in 1945 into Soviet and U.S. zones of influence. In the 1950-53 war sparked by a Northern invasion, China fought for the North and a U.S.-led United Nations force supported the South.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the North's strongest ally disappeared. Its only remaining backer, China, has been rapidly expanding ties with booming South Korea.

Under the agreement announced on Saturday after a week of talks in Geneva, the North will switch to light-water reactors and close down graphite reactors that can produce plutonium for bomb-making.

The United States will put together a consortium of nations to meet the estimated \$4 billion cost of new reactors and ensure that the North gets alternative energy supplies until they come on line.

The two sides also agreed to exchange diplomatic representatives and reduce barriers to trade and investment as move towards full normalisation of relations.

The North Koreans agreed to freeze construction of two graphite reactors nearing completion and stop reprocessing of nuclear fuel once they receive assurances that the light-water project will go ahead.

South Korean officials have generally been cautious about the accord, saying it is premature to say the crisis is over.

LETTERS

Preparing for a normal life

To the Editor:

AS IT was from the beginning, and just until last month, the unthinkable could not become a day dream, the intangible was not to change into applicable, and the taboos remained untouchable.

But signals, clear and strong, started popping out of the moribund water. People, though knew and saw what was happening, did not know how to react. Some protested by saying that it was "too early". Others chose to say it was "too late." When both arguments failed to make headways, people now say it is "too quick."

Facing such too contradictory understatements makes you inclined to ignore the whole thing altogether, forces you to ground yourself in your ever-evading seclusion, which in its turn leads you to face a too dark horizon and a dead end.

One thing is crystal clear and inevitable though; History is in the making in this hot month of August 1994. It seems that this region is in a stage of transformation, and the landscape is vibrating with small but very significant events.

The beams of every new sunrise are witnessing new signs and land marks on the ground, and on the top hills of the ancient Jordan Valley; and on the green sticky fields flanking

the immortal Jordan River, the topography of the Middle Eastern rift is undergoing its second wind.

A week ago, a Jordanian chopper landed peacefully on its pad on the west shore of the Dead Sea. It was the first since Israel hoisted its flag at the U.N. in the late forties, when millions of us were not born yet. Few days earlier, an Israeli official delegation arrived at a Jordanian hotel on the east shore of the Dead Sea.

The Dead Sea has risen again and gave birth to some most extraordinary developments. The camera is rolling and no one will be able to stop it. After long abnormal times, shouldn't we prepare ourselves to live a simple normal life?

Salim Ayoub,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Features

Majali briefs Aziz on peace process

(Continued from page 1)

members of the U.N. Security Council, including the Moroccan envoy.

Mr. Aziz headed for Morocco after his talks here with Dr. Majali. Rabat has often acted as a go-between for Baghdad and Washington.

Jordanian peace negotiators have said that their Israeli counterparts have been consistently referring to Iraq as a regional threat to the Jewish state, implying that the concept of regional security and disarmament could not be complete without involving Iraq in some form.

Iraq has been critical of the peace process and state-guided newspapers in Baghdad have often assailed the Arab-Israeli negotiations as falling short of meeting Arab demands for their full rights.

Israeli Housing Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer said Saturday Israel could not afford to ignore Iraq as a regional power. Mr. Ben Eliezer denied, however, the reports of secret contacts.

Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal, who like Mr. Ben Eliezer is of Iraqi origin, said Sunday the United States could not dictate Israeli foreign policy towards Iraq, but that any contacts with Iraq would be coordinated with Washington.

"Israel cannot allow itself to cut off coordination with the United States ... it doesn't mean that we cannot express our comments and reservations regarding the Iraqi option if there is one," Mr. Shahal was quoted as

saying.

However, Mr. Shahal, who also holds the energy portfolio, said Israel should explore the possibility of making peace with Iraq as a counter-move against what the Jewish state perceives as a nuclear threat from Iran.

"I do not know of any (Iraqi) overtures" to contact Israel, Mr. Shahal was quoted as saying by international news agencies reporting from occupied Jerusalem. "At this stage, there is no real option on the part of the Iraqi government to move closer to Israel."

"I am in favour of the cabinet checking into the matter in the context of seeing what the future dangers are, especially from Iraq," said Mr. Shahal, citing the proverb that "the enemy of my enemy is my friend."

"I do not think there should be an outright rejection of (an Iraqi overture)," he said. Israel is worried about Iran's nuclear potential, he said, a danger "at the root of all our thinking about the future."

Mr. Shahal's comments to reporters came in response to Israeli media reports that the U.S. had asked Israel to cease its contacts with Iraq.

Mr. Rabin denied that any contacts, official or unofficial, had been sanctioned. "We support the U.S. position regarding Iraq," Mr. Rabin was quoted as saying by the Haaretz newspaper. "There is no approval for any Israeli, official or unofficial, to hold contacts with Iraq."

Israel Television reported Friday that Gad Yacobi, the Israeli ambassador to the United Nations, had relayed to Mr. Rabin that "third-country" diplomats had approached him on behalf of Iraq with a message that Baghdad was keen to opening a dialogue with Israel.

Mr. Yacobi was asked not to pursue the issue, Israel Television reported, adding that Mr. Aziz was the Iraqi diplomat who initiated the purported contacts.

Israel's Yediot Aharonot reported last week that an Israeli defense official met with Israeli officials in Europe in July and suggested a package of measures including Baghdad dropping all its claims to Kuwait and agreeing to sell oil to Israel and open offices in each other's territory in return for Israeli lobbying with Washington to end the international sanctions against Iraq.

The Iraqi government dismissed the report as fabricated.

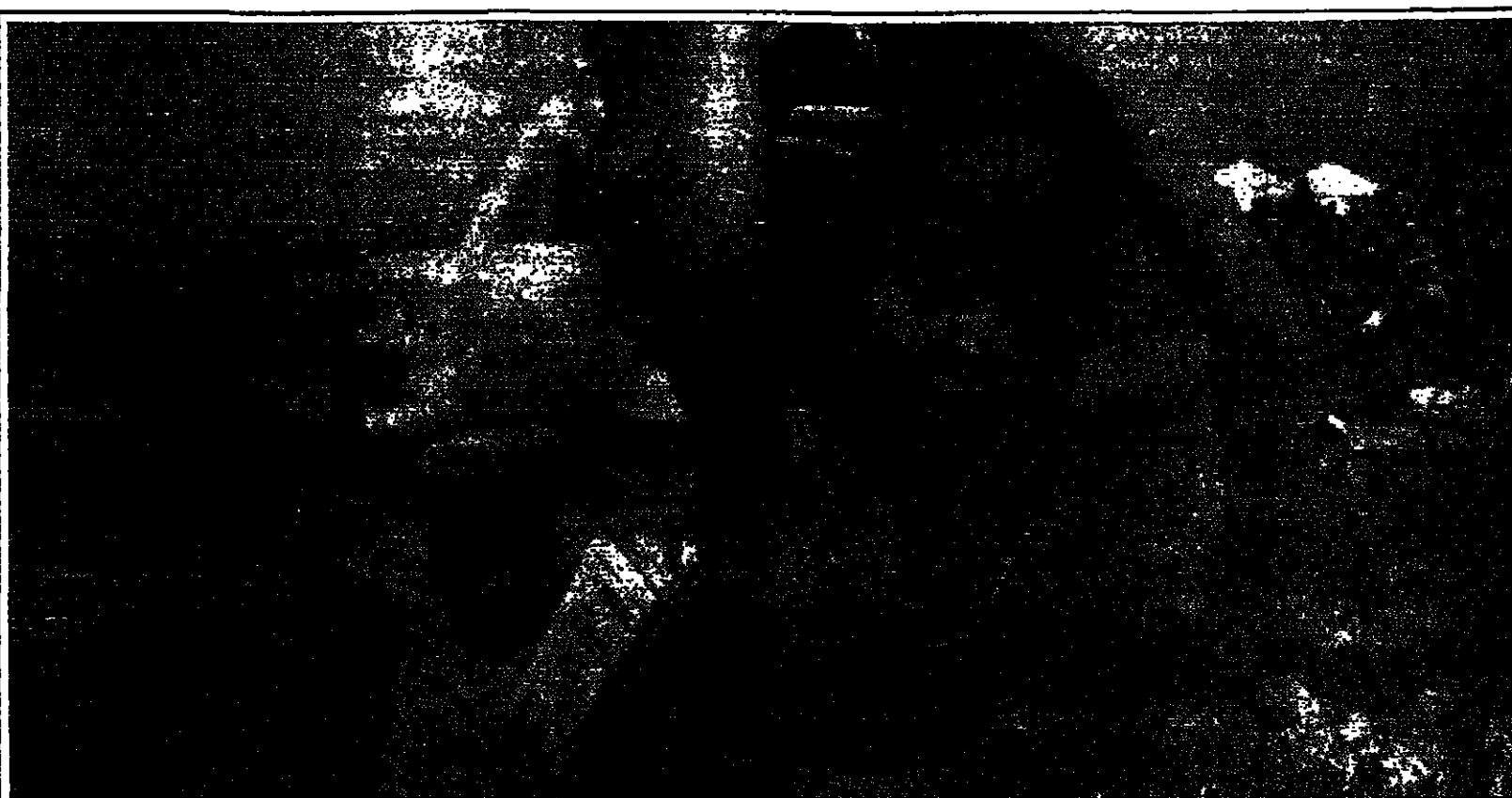
W. Bank

(Continued from page 1)

But so far borders have only been under Israeli control and Palestinians have complained of lengthy travel procedures.

Mr. Shahal said the new crossing procedures would be reduced to an average of 90 minutes.

Another delayed condition of the Israeli-PLO autonomy accord will be implemented on Monday with the opening of four "safe passages" across Israeli territory for Palestinians between Gaza and Jericho, the police ministry said.



Two Rwandan girls carry water from a distribution point back to their shelters at the Kibumba refugee camp, 30 km north from the Zairean town of Goma (AFP photo)

Refugees find solace in memories

Even in the squalid Rwandan refugee camps, they stand out: The refugees who have nothing. In this report, Brian Murphy, looks at how three of the poorest of the poor try to cope with having lost everything

The Associated Press

GOMA, Zaire — The first drops of the coming rainy season sizzled in the small fire Maria Uwizeye built between two rocks. She pulled her 5-year-old daughter close and arranged her faded orange wrap over their heads.

Soon it was raining hard. They huddled together in the dirt field until the storm passed.

Ms. Uwizeye and her daughter have each other and nothing more. For more than three weeks, they have slept in the open near the Goma airstrip. They barely notice the round-the-clock roar of arriving and departing relief planes.

Her lifeline is a friend from their village in Rwanda near Kabaya. The friend brings them some beans and loaned them a cooking pot.

"I hope she doesn't ask for it back," said Ms. Uwizeye. "This pot is the most important thing in the world for me."

Ms. Uwizeye, who said her husband was killed by Tutsi-led rebels in April, is too intimidated by the huge refugee camps to seek food or plastic sheeting there. She had neither the tools nor the strength to even try to build a wooden lean-to.

"We used to grow everything we need: yams, bananas. I know we were not rich. But it seems so wonderful now," said Ms.

Uwizeye. "Really wonderful."

Along the main road to Goma, Ms. Uwizeye sometimes looks for scraps of blank paper. Her daughter likes to use bits of charcoal from their fire to draw pictures.

"This is our home," said the girl, pointing out the garden, the trees, "and this is me," she added.

In the picture, she drew a smiling face.

"I used to smile all the time," she said.

Sleep is a chance to escape.

"Almost every night I dream about what it was like before," said Paul Myirongoru. "There are always people laughing and singing."

But when he opens his eyes, Mr. Myirongoru is torn back to reality: the chipped concrete of the doorway of a long-closed shop.

Mr. Myirongoru, 21, said he was separated from his parents during the frenzied exodus by more than 1 million people from Rwanda

in July. He heard they were in the Katala camp, about 50 kilometres away. But he's afraid to make the trip and lose the doorway space.

"I feel lucky to have this place," he said. "I would fight to keep it."

Mr. Myirongoru has filled the space with the items he's scavenged on the streets. His prize is a plastic jerry can with a hole.

"I'm going to try to fix the hole and then I can keep water in it to wash and drink," said Mr. Myirongoru. "In our apartment in Kigali we had water from the tap. I'm used to things like that."

In the past few days, Mr. Myirongoru has developed a fever and deep cough. If it gets worse, he said he could seek out medical help. "I have no plans to die in this doorway."

A gust of wind left Clairene Mbutakusi with almost nothing.

The 30-year-old widow said the umbrella she used as her only shelter was carried away by a strong

breeze. She couldn't run after it on the sharp rocks in the Lava field near the Kibumba camp.

"It was very sad to watch it go," said Ms. Mbutakusi. "I should have tried it down. But I had no string."

Ms. Mbutakusi was able to get two thin blankets from other refugees, who are also sharing their rations of beans and maize.

But she hasn't yet found the energy to walk the five kilometres to wait for plastic sheeting donated by the United Nations.

She has propped up one blanket with three gnarled sticks. Layers of dried banana tree leaves are on the ground.

She opened a leather billfold and arranged some papers and photographs on the black, grainy volcanic soil. There are some pictures of her home in Ruhengeri, Rwanda, and a letter from her sister in Belgium.

"I'm just waiting until she finds me," Ms. Mbutakusi said. "I know she must be looking."

Accord continues to elude pipeline talks

(Continued on page 12)

Baghdad's view is that while it is ready to accept a deal along those lines, the Kurds should not get any benefit from it and it is the West's responsibility to look after them as long as western forces continue to maintain the northern enclave and treat it as an almost independent entity.

"After all, the West has taken on the self-assumed responsibility for them," said an Iraqi diplomat recently. "They are providing the so-called protective umbrella and preventing Iraq from exercising its sovereignty in the north."

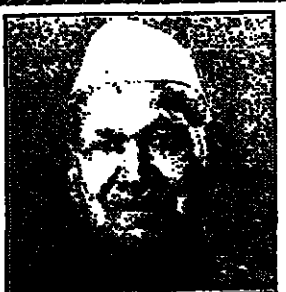

"As such, the Iraqi government does not believe that it is responsible for such forces which are supported by external elements," added the diplomat. "If indeed anyone wants Iraq's national resources to be used to benefit them, then the beneficiaries should be under Iraqi control in areas where the Iraqi government could exercise its sovereign rights."

U.N. sources say that Turkey had received a go-ahead from the U.S. on the pipeline deal as long as Washington's conditions are met. In view of the Iraqi rejection of the key demand that Kurds should

also get supplies, Turkey is caught in the middle, trying desperately to find common ground.

The Middle East economic survey reported that 27 million barrels of oil will be pumped through the pipeline in the next six months. It would mean sealing the pipeline after pumping in fresh oil.

In his comments to the Jordan Times on Sunday, Mr. Qaisi said his talks in Ankara included an "exchange of views on means to controlling the process of emptying the pipeline once a full agreement is reached." He did not elaborate.

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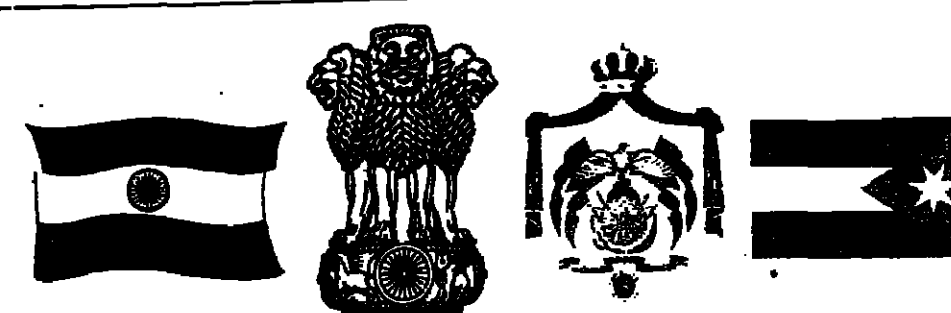
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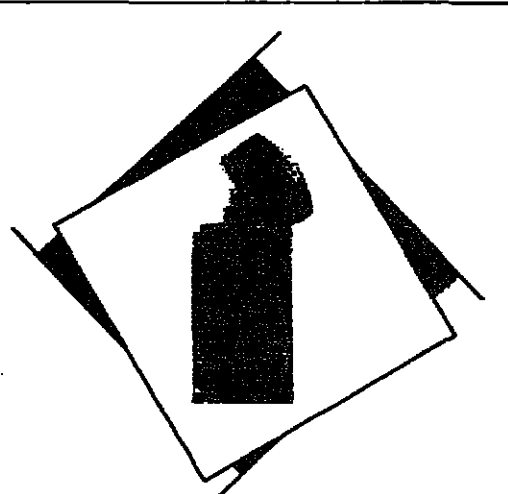


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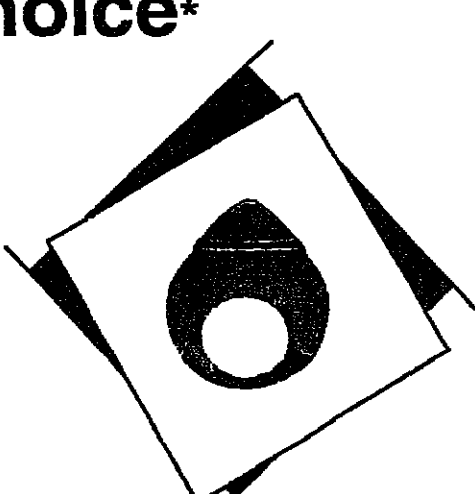
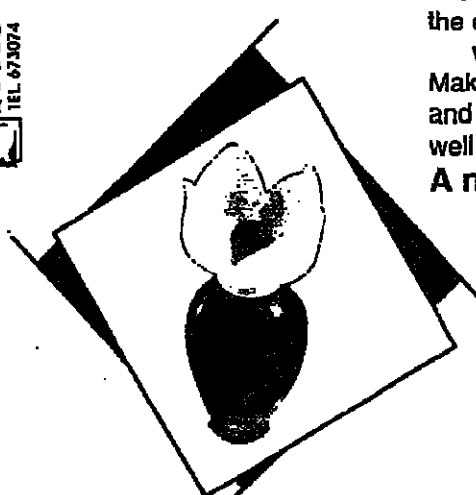
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NAM urges debt reduction, slams creditor groups

JAKARTA (Agencies) — A Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) advisory group which wants cuts of up to 70 per cent in the foreign debt of poor nations has also criticised creditor groups for what they say are unjust practices. The advisory group's report coincided with a weekend meeting in Jakarta of representatives from at least 31 NAM members on debt and development. The report said current arrangements for dealing

with debt problems were inefficient and unfair. Referring to the World Bank, the Paris Club of the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development and the London Club of ad hoc steering committees of commercial banks it said: "These separate forums operate in an uncoordinated fashion among themselves. Lack of coordination increases dramatically the administrative and transaction costs for the borrowers."

it noted. At the same time, the entire process is inherently unjust: Most of the meetings are prepared, staged and managed exclusively by the creditors. The report called for a cut in debts of poor countries by 70 per cent on average "in view of their high degree of dependence on depressed and frequently volatile export commodity markets."

Indonesia's President Suharto, current leader of the 111-member NAM, called Saturday for a comprehensive and permanent solution to debt problems in developing countries. Indonesia, Asia's only OPEC member, has a foreign debt of around \$90 billion. Under President Suharto, who took power in the late 1960s, Jakarta has never defaulted on, or rescheduled, the debt. Countries represented at the meeting including Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, Chad, Djibouti, Burma and Cambodia. Officials from the World Bank and International Monetary Fund also attended. The World Bank said Sunday it did not agree with the principle of fixed debt reductions for heavily indebted developing countries as had been suggested by representatives of NAM. "The World Bank does not ascribe to the case by case

approach," World Bank resident staffer in Indonesia Dennis de Tray said. Mr. Tray countered that it was important to build dialogue between debtors and creditors so that case-by-case solutions could be found. Sudanese Finance Minister Ali Mohammad Osman Yassin, attending the talks, suggested the establishment of a permanent committee in Indonesia "to look after the question and settlement of debt" rather than an ad-hoc group. The present NAM ad hoc advisory group of experts was commissioned by NAM chairman President Suharto, in September 1992 to report on the debt conditions of developing nations and seek possible solutions. The most heavily indebted nation Sudan has outstanding loans totalling \$8 to \$9 billion.

Fed expected to raise U.S. rates again this week

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) is likely to raise interest rates this week for the first time in three months to give another tug on the reins of the economy, analysts say. The move, they say, would follow Tuesday's meeting of the Fed's policy-making Federal Open Market Committee. It would be the fifth time this year the Fed has tightened credit to keep inflation in check.

Most economists say despite those earlier rate hikes there is enough evidence of continued momentum to keep the Fed worried about potential inflationary pressures. There are now mixed signals about the economy's strength. Some sectors that were propelling growth in the early stages of the recovery such as housing and auto sales show signs of running out of steam, and that argues for restraint. On the other hand, jobs growth remains strong, orders of manufacturing machinery are up and banks are in hot competition to lend to businesses and consumers, which suggests free-wheeling activity in other areas of the economy.

What is clear is that economic growth in the last four quarters has averaged more than four per cent — a robust level that Fed officials believe cannot be sustained without bottlenecks and eventual price pressures. On Friday, Fed Governor John LaWare told a group of New England bankers that he thought the economy would expand 3.25 to 3.5 per cent in 1994. This figure is higher than previous Fed estimates, and could fan inflationary concerns at the central bank, economists said.

"It's obvious the Fed believes that growth has to be no higher than 2-3 per cent in upcoming quarters to keep inflation from emerging," said Ana Johnson, chief financial analyst at the First National Bank of Chicago. "Growth is slowing but not to that degree," he said. In a Reuters survey last week, 24 out of 30 Wall Street economists predicted the Fed would decide to raise rates at Tuesday's meeting to bring this growth rate down, though they were split over

how aggressively it needed to apply the brake. Many expect a small 25 basis point increase in the federal funds rate that the Fed charges banks for overnight loans, to 4.50 per cent from 4.25 per cent, arguing that there are enough mixed signals in the economic data to preclude a bolder step. However, if the Fed wanted to send a stronger message, it could move 50 basis points higher, something it did the last time it moved on May 17 to wide acclaim on Wall Street. The Fed's commitment to price stability was highlighted in a speech by Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan on Capitol Hill last week, which suggested to some that he may have been preparing the way for a rate increase. Inflation, Mr. Greenspan warned, can be hard to detect. By the time it shows up in price indexes, "many imbalances that are costly to rectify have developed already."

Last week, the Labour Department released inflation reports that gave a blurred picture of price pressures in July. On Thursday, the producer price index that measures inflation at the wholesale level showed the biggest jump in 15 months, largely because of a surge in gasoline and coffee prices due to frost damage to the Brazilian crop. But on Friday, another report showed only moderate gains in inflation at the retail level, which spurred a rally in financial markets because it suggested that pressures were not filtering through to the consumer.

It was not clear how financial markets would react to a rate hike, though bonds, stocks and the dollar have been enjoying a lull this summer compared with the chaos earlier in the year that was touched off by the Fed's initial hike. The Clinton administration, too, has signalled that it would not object to a small increase. Last month, White House economic adviser Laura Tyson said there was room for a quarter point rise in long and short-term interest rates by year's end without doing any damage to economic growth.

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UAE study expects major gas discoveries in Arab Gulf region

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Iran and other Gulf states could make major gas discoveries as they step up exploration to face a rapid growth in demand for cleaner energy sources, a United Arab Emirates (UAE) study has said.

The study, published in the UAE oil ministry's monthly bulletin, estimated natural gas reserves in Iran, Iraq and the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) at around 44.7 trillion cubic metres accounting for nearly 32 per cent of the total world gas reserves.

"Only recently, regional states started to carry out exploration operations targeting gas after it gained more significance in the energy industry. Such operations include drilling deeper wells

or in previously known formations where no gas exploration was carried out," it said.

"Consequently, there is a growing conviction that gas reserves in the Middle East will continue to increase and will enable the region to own much more than the 32 per cent it currently holds," the study pointed out.

It cited the recent discovery by Iran of a field with an estimated 600 million cubic metres.

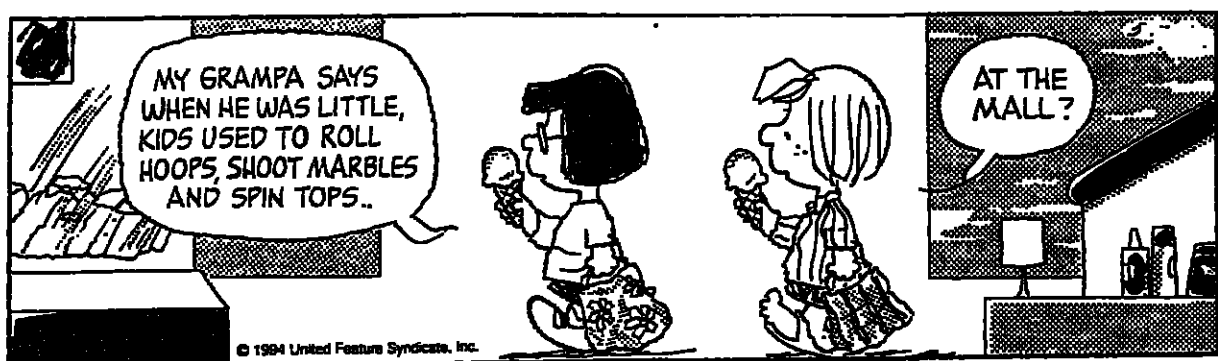
Iran has the largest gas reserves in the Middle East, estimated at more than 19 trillion cubic metres. Qatar's reserves stand at seven trillion cubic metres and the UAE's at 5.7 trillion cubic metres. The rest are based in Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Oman and Kuwait.

GlobalAccess — international cash card from BBME

Jordanians on the move can now benefit from The British Bank of the Middle East's (BBME) newest innovation, GlobalAccess, a cash card which allows one to access local accounts from over 170,000 Automated Teller Machines in 72 countries outside Jordan. The service is provided through a wide international network which inter-links HSBC group members, BBME, Marine Midland (USA), Midland Bank (Europe), and Hongkong

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Peanuts



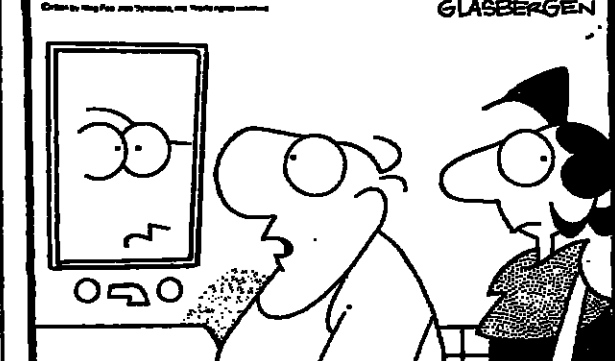
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ACROSS

1 Heretic
5 Played a role
10 Boredom
11 vegetable
14 Plate
15 Indian warrior
16 Mexican pot
17 A Logan
18 "Monopoly" buy
19 Scheme
20 Worthless person/good health
23 Foot problem
24 High-pitched
25 Auction
28 Make certain of
31 Gumbo
32 Short sock
34 Collector's goal
37 Race track
40 Storm center
41 Worked for
42 Norse god
43 Eskimo dance
44 Treat one
45 Scudbug
48 Command to a horse
50 Tea
51 cake/mixture
52 Beginning with
53 Misadventure
54 Decans
55 Sober-minded
56 Chaser up
57 Taken out
58 TV talking horse
59 Swore of

DOWN

1 Piece of bias
2 Tidy sum
3 — of weight
4 Girl's name
5 Exaggerate
6 Dashed
7 Livery
8 — knivel
9 Farmer's place
10 Nursery rhyme
11 "Dollars"
12 Antelope
13 Zestful
21 Morse code signal
22 "It is" — "I"
23 Was carried
24 Approval
27 French cheese
28 Polaris
29 River to the North Sea
30 Unite metals
31 Call it —
32 Author Ephron
34 Plink
35 Biographer
36 Ludwig
38 Bread ingredient
39 Indian weapon
40 Galley
41 Family member
42 Muscular contraction
43 Romero or Frank
47 in union company
48 Put to work
51 Graily
52 Heraldic border
54 Cosmology
55 Planter's tool
56 Attracted

Russians stun Croatia in semifinal

TORONTO (R) — Sergei Bazarevich scored 12 of his team-high 16 points in the second half as Russia held off a late rally by Croatia for a stunning 66-64 semifinal victory at the World Championship of Basketball on Saturday.

The result spoiled the anticipated final on Sunday between Olympic finalists Croatia and the United States, which advanced earlier in the evening by beating Greece 97-58.

"We were the only people who sincerely believed we could be in the finals of a world championship," said Russian coach Sergei Belov, whose team lost to the United States 111-94 on Friday.

"It took a lot of convincing in three months of coaching this team to take it to the championship game," Bazarevich scored all seven of Russia's points and made two important steals to blunt a comeback by the Croats during a key four-minute stretch in which they whittled Russia's lead, once 14 points of 39-25, down to one at 60-59 with three minutes to play.

Arijan Komazec scored 22 points including the last five points of the game to lead Croatia, which received sub-

par showings from their stars Dino Radja and Toni Kukoc, both current National Basketball Association players.

Radja scored 16 points and added a game-high 14 rebounds before fouling out with two minutes to play.

But in the first half, Croatia's leading scorer shot just 1-of-10 from the floor and 4-of-10 from the free-throw line, as no Croatian player made more than one field goal and the team shot just 25 per cent (7-of-28) from the field.

BASKETBALL

For the game, Croatia shot better from beyond the 3-point stripe (8-of-16) than from 2-point range (11-of-43).

Kukoc, three times voted Europe's outstanding player, scored five points on 2-of-8 shooting and added just four rebounds and two assists.

The Russians played most of the game without Andrei Fetisov, their starting power forward who reinjured the right leg he hurt in Friday's loss to the United States.

Fetisov started the game but did not score and left the court 3:32 into the contest. Coach Belov said he hoped

Fetisov would be available on Sunday.

Vasili Karasev came off the bench to score all 11 of his points in the first half, leading Russia to a 31-22 edge at the break.

But the second half belonged to Bazarevich.

On consecutive possessions, the 29-year-old point guard sliced between Croatian defenders for one layup, spun off Radja, who was playing with four fouls, for a second layup and sank two free throws.

After Croatia pulled within 60-59, Sergei Babkov hit an off-balance runner from the baseline to increase the margin to three. Kisourin then sank three of four free throws and Bazarevich converted one of two to make it 66-59.

Croatia tried to climb back as Komazec dropped in a layup and hit a 30-footer at the buzzer but it was not enough.

"I am happy because our team showed we have guts," Bazarevich said. "When the Croats were closing the gap, there was a period when they were throwing in the

3-pointers, we could have panicked, but we didn't. This is something characteristic of a team with class."

The Russians, fourth at the 1992 Olympics, were silver medalists at the 1990 worlds, where Croats contributed largely to Yugoslavia's gold medal.

"We always have this problem with the Russian team," said Croatian head coach Giusepppe Giorgia, whose team lost to the United States 117-85 in the Olympic final.

"We will have to come back and win for our fans so we can go home with a bronze medal."

In the earlier semi, six United States players scored in double figures and Shaquille O'Neal pulled down 16 rebounds in 18 minutes as the American Dream Team II erupted in the decisive second half.

Reggie Miller scored a game-high 14 points for the United States, which has beaten its seven opponents by an average of 36.6 points.

Efthimis Bakatsias scored 12 to pace Greece.

Said O'Neal, who had four steals and three blocks: "We had better not struggle (in Sunday's final) like we did offensively tonight and expect to come back."



TENSE MOMENTS — Sweden's Sven Dagar concentrates in his discus throw of the men's decathlon competition at the European Athletics

championships in Helsinki. Dagar is leading the competition after eight events (AFP photo)

Christie braced for Commonwealth battle

VICTORIA, Canada (AFP) — Linford Christie, fresh from his European championship bat-trick, faces sterner test at the Commonwealth Games here.

The world and Olympic gold medalist cruised to victory in Helsinki. But the Nigerians — and world 200m champion Frankie Fredericks — are laying traps for him here.

Christie, whose first of two defeats this season came at the hands of Nigerian Davidson Ezinwa, said: "The Commonwealth will be a lot tougher than here. The Nigerians are running well this season and then there's Frankie Fredericks."

Christie has all the pedigree but Ezinwa has the slender psychological edge of that in Linz, Austria, at the start of July.

He ran 9.98 second in the heats, with a superb personal best of 9.94 in the final — a world best for the year until Leroy Burrell came along.

Steve Backley defends his

Fredericks, the first Namibian over to win a major event medal, is also a threat and so is Canadian Bruno Surin, if he recovers in time from a knee injury.

In Auckland four years ago, England won 13 gold, 14 silver and 13 bronze to lead the medals table.

John Regis hopes to help England maintain that dominance and overcome his own bitter memories of the Europeans — where he had to withdraw with Achilles tendon trouble.

If the 27-year-old, who won an unprecedented four medals at the European Championships in Split in 1990, overcomes the injury he will start as one of the 200m favourites.

Roger Black will be out for revenge after losing his European 400m title to compatriot Duane Ladejo. But at the age of 28, time looks to be running out for one-time golden boy Black.

Steve Backley defends his

Obree's bike banned

PALERME, Italy (AFP) British cyclist Graeme Obree faces an uphill struggle to retain his world pursuit championship title here after officials ruled his new bicycle is illegal.

After an examination Sunday, the International Cycling Union said the machine breached the rules. Examiners said it was built specially for the event and was not of a type available, or which could be made available, on the sports cycle market.

Rule 49, modified at the start of the year, states: "A machine designed especially

for the accomplishment of a particular performance is not allowed."

Obree, who holds the one-hour distance record, will not be able to use the machine, based on last year's model but with a shorter saddle, when the event gets underway here Monday.

The move puts compatriot Chris Boardman in the favourite's saddle.

Obree, 28, who took the pursuit title last year in Norway, hit the headlines when he revealed he built his bicycle using parts from a washing machine.

Americans dominate pan African-U.S. meet

DURHAM, N.C. (AP) — Whatever Michael Johnson runs, Michael Johnson wins. Johnson, the only athlete ever to be ranked No. 1 in the world in the men's 200 and 400 metres in the same season, extended his winning streak in the 400 to 35 since 1990 at the Pan Africa-U.S. meet Saturday.

In his first 400 to the season, Johnson was extremely impressive, winning in 44.32 seconds, matching the fastest time in the world this year.

Johnson's performance highlighted the final programme of the two-day meet, which also included upset victories by Mark Everett in the men's 800 and Regina Jacobs in the women's 1,500. Dennis Mitchell's win in the men's 100 in a sparkling 9.94 and Gwen Torrence's second triumph of the competition.

The hard-working Johnson, the 1991 world champion and 200 winner at last month's Goodwill games and the 1993 world champion at 400 metres, caught Antonio Pettigrew at 200 metres and surged into a commanding lead at the 300 mark.

From there on, he pulled away to win by five metres over Pettigrew, the 1991 world

champion who was runner-up at 44.88. Quincy Watts, the 1992 Olympic gold medalist, was a late scratch from the 400, but later ran on the winning 1,600-metre relay.

"I accomplished what I set out to do," Johnson said. "I decided in the middle of the season to switch my focus from just the 200. I figured I would take the opportunity to try and break the (world) record (43.29) this year."

Johnson, who was ranked No. 1 in the world in the 200 and 400 in 1990, also experimented with the 100 this year, hoping to become the first sprinter to break 10 seconds in the 100, 20 seconds in the 200 and 44 seconds in the 400. But Johnson, with career bests of 19.97 for the 200 and 43.65 for the 400, couldn't crack 10.00 for the 100.

His best this year was 10.09. Everett, the 1991 world championship bronze medalist, five-time U.S. champion and two-time olympian in the 800, held the lead through-out, beating the 1-2 1992 olympic finishers, William Tanui and Nixon Kproch, both of Kenya.

Everett, winning by two

metres over Tanui, was timed in 1:44.86 his best of the year.

Jacobs, the four-time U.S. champion at 1,500 metres, outdistanced 1991 world champion and 1992 olympic gold medalist Hassiba Boulmerka of Algeria, clocking 4:10.24.

Boulmerka led down the backstretch, before Jacobs edged ahead for good with 150 metres remaining.

"Down the stretch, I said to myself, 'not on my soil, she's going to beat me,'" Jacobs said. "The crowd was loud, it sounded like 50,000."

Actually, it was only 10,309.

Mitchell, winner of the Goodwill Games 100 last month, blasted out of the blocks quickly as usual and never lost the lead despite a strong challenge from training partner Jon Drummond.

Mitchell's time matched his best of the year and is the second-fastest in the world this season, while Drummond, the runner-up, equalled his career best of 9.99.

Torrence, the 1992 olympic gold medalist at 200 metres and winner of that event Friday night, took the 100 Saturday at 10.87, third-fastest time in the world this

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Swimmers fish for crumbs in Australia's wake

VICTORIA, Canada (AFP)

Yet again, Australian swimmers are gearing up for an assault on the Commonwealth Games, this time led by world record-holders Kieren Perkins and Rebecca Brown.

The Australians are expected to dominate the swimming events, with Canada hoping the home advantage will help them in their bid to grab some of the glory.

"Australia are definitely the favourite," says Canadian swimming coach Dave Johnson. "They've consistently been in the top three or four swimming nations in the world."

Perkins, the 20-year-old 1,500m freestyle world record-holder could lead an Australian sweep in his event, in which compatriots Glen Housman and Daniel Kowalski also excel.

Scotland's Graeme Smith, ranked third in the Commonwealth in the event, is hoping to prevent an Aussie one-two-three.

Brown 17, is entered in her world record event 200m breaststroke and the 100m breaststroke.

Coach Don Talbot, who steered Australian swimmer

to a record of 21 gold medals in 1990, said it would not be farfetched for his swimmers to aim for gold in every event.

"Potentially, this is the strongest group of swimmers our country has ever produced," he says.

Another potential Aussie star is Susie O'Neill, who will be trying to medal in seven events—the 100m and 200m freestyle and butterfly and three women's relays.

Johnson said Canada's swimmers were closing the gap to their Australian counterparts in many events.

But it is unlikely Canada will match the 31-gold medal haul they managed when the games were played in Edmonton in 1978.

Graham Smith led the Canadian charge that year with six golds, and the host team lacks anyone of his talent this time around.

They do have Curtis Myden, ranked number one in the Commonwealth in the 200m and 400m individual medley.

His toughest challenge will likely come from Australian Matthew Dunn and Scotland's Fraser Walker, silver-medallist at the world short-

course championships.

Canada's Stephen Clarke is the top 100m freestyle in the Commonwealth, while their best medal hopes on the women's side are breaststroker Gylaine Cloutier and freestyler Shannon Shakespeare.

The news for backers of England's swimmers has been both good and bad as the games approach.

Veteran Nick Gillingham, the world short-course 200m breaststroke champion and former world record-holder, has been declared fit to swim after pulling out of the national championships early this month after aggravating a back injury.

England selectors, no doubt recalling Gillingham's problems with a groin injury at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, insisted that the 27-year-old get medical clearance to compete.

"Everything is OK," Gillingham said last week. "I got the injury back in December and it was just a bit sore last week after a lot of hard work on training. I didn't want to put it under pressure in a race situation, but everything was fine in the medical."

Freestyler Ian Wilson was buoyed by a 1,500m victory over Graeme Smith at the British nationals, but veteran distance freestyler Sarah Hardcastle was fuming after England officials excluded her coach Rosa Gallop from the Great Britain staff.

"I think I have been Britain's most successful female swimmer for the past decade, but I have never had my own coach on the national team," Hardcastle said.

The only English swimmer who goes in ranked first in the Commonwealth in this event is Martin HJarris in the 100m backstroke. Harris, a silver medallist at the world short-course championships, has tipped New Zealander Greg Ford as his biggest threat in this event.



Spain's gold medalist Martin Flix (right) and silver medalist Diego Garcia (left) greet third-placed Alberto Juzdado at the finish line of the men's marathon for an all-Spanish victory at the European Athletics Championships in Helsinki (AFP photo)

Marathon clean-sweep no surprise to Spaniards

HELSINKI (R) — A combination of hard work, organization and cash are behind Spain's historic clean-sweep of the medals in the European Championship marathon on Sunday, according to the men who performed the feat.

Since modern marathon running began in the 1896 Olympic Games no country had ever before won gold, silver and bronze in the same marathon race.

Gold medalist Martin Flix, a 31-year-old Basque, refused to be surprised by what they had achieved.

"We all had good times coming into this race. It shouldn't be that unexpected," he said. Flix is Spanish record holder with two hours 10 minutes 21 seconds, a time he

set when finishing 12th in Boston this year. Silver medalist Diego Garcia's best performance of 2:10:30, came when he took third in Fukuoka last December.

Bronze medalist Alberto Juzdado, only had a second place in 2:11:39 in the 1992 San Sebastian event as his best showing. But on Sunday he lowered that time by 21 seconds.

For the last two months the three men have been leading a frugal life in the ancient Roman town of Segovia.

Situated at a height of 1,100 metres and surrounded by mountains which rise to 2,000 metres, the area is ideal for distance running.

But no one can exist on fresh air alone and money also played a part in the Spanish success. The Spanish federation was already paying each medallist a training grant depending on past performance and promise.

While Flix and Garcia are now preparing to put their feet up and relax, Juzdado said: "Of course the money I've won will come in handy, but preparing for this marathon mean I have had to miss work."

After Sunday's success the three embraced each other. "We have spent a long time together and it was the fulfillment dream," said Flix.

Schumacher wins in Hungary

BUDAPEST (R) — World championship leader Michael Schumacher ignored the problems besetting his Benetton team to win the Hungarian Grand Prix and increase his advantage over Damon Hill in this year's title race to 31 points on Sunday.

Schumacher swept aside all the recent controversy surrounding himself and the Anglo-Italian team by dominating a straightforward race in warm sunshine.

The 25-year-old German was marginally slower than British rival Hill, in a Williams, off the starting grid but forced his way back into the lead at the first corner and then dominated the rest of the 77-lap race.

Despite being required to make three pit stops for fresh tyres and fuel, Schumacher was never troubled and Hill led only for a brief run of ten laps following the first Schumacher lap.

Hill came home second 20.8 seconds behind Schumacher and was followed by Dutchman Jos Verstappen, third in the second Benetton, his best result in formula one and the perfect way to return to action after the trauma of his fireball experience in Germany two weeks ago.

Verstappen was fortunate to inherit his first podium finish on the final lap when Briton Martin Brundle idled to a halt in his McLaren. Brundle finished up classified fourth ahead of fellow-Briton Mark Blundell in a Tyrrell and Frenchman Olivier Panis who was sixth for Ligier.

Schumacher, racing under appeal against his two-race ban and six points penalty for ignoring a black flag at Silverstone in early July now has 76 points in the championship and Hill 45.

Entries for Rumman hill climb ended

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Rumman hill climb will be held Aug. 19, with the first car expected to leave at around 10 a.m. Entries for participation ended Sunday at 6 p.m. Scrutinizing the 75 cars will take place Tuesday afternoon at the Royal Automobile Club (RAC) Drivers' Training Centre. Controlled practice sessions will be held on

Wednesday and Thursday. There is a major Lebanese and Egyptian participation, competing with top Jordanian race drivers.

His Majesty King Hussein still holds the official title for the fastest time for the 3-km track.

The rally is sponsored by Pepsi-Cola and Forte Grand Hotel.

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NORTH

♠ 9

♥ K Q 9 4

♦ 10 6 2

♣ K Q 7 4 2

WEST

♠ K J 10

♥ Q 7 5 4 3

♦ A 9 8 3

♣ K Q 7 5

EAST

♠ A 8 6 2

♥ A 10 8 3

♦ 4

♣ A 10 9 8

SOUTH

♠ A 8 6 2

♥ A 10 8 3

♦ 4

♣ A 10 9 8

The bidding:

North East South West

Pass Pass 1♠ 10

1♠ 2♠ 3♠ 3♠

Pass Pass 6♠ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

It is not often you reach slam when one partner has passed and the other does not have the values for a demand bid. It is even rarer to accomplish that feat when opener, facing a passed hand, has a near minimum. The Dames had no trouble on this deal from their match against Poland at the recent European Championships.

The bidding shown is by Peter Scholz, South, and his wife Dorthe. With the auction marking partner for at most a singleton spade and with a big revealed fit in both clubs

and hearts, South's decision to pass on to slam backed his card-reading ability to the hilt.

A heart lead would have won the day for the defense. The way to 12 tricks is for declarer to ruff two diamonds in hand and then guess the heart position, but a heart lead resolves one problem for declarer only to present another. Forced to draw trumps to prevent an impending heart ruff by the defense, declarer ends up a trick short when clubs fail to divide evenly.

However, we can think of no sound reason why West should lead a heart, especially since it could easily cost a trick. Declarer won the spade lead with the ace and immediately conceded a diamond trick. The spade continuation was ruffed, a diamond was ruffed in the closed hand, and after cashing the ace of trumps declarer crossed to the table with a trump to ruff the remaining diamond.

A heart to the king provided the entry to draw the outstanding trump. By now declarer had learned that East had started with five spades and at least three cards in each of the minors and, therefore, could not hold more than two hearts. A heart to the ace revealed the distribution and the marked diamond for the jack wrapped up the slam.

Jordan Times

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Richard Gere/Sharon Stone in INTERSECTION		Mahmoud Abed Al Aziz KHALTBITA		CONCORD '1' PHILADELPHIA Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' ROBINHOOD Shows: 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Martin Khov and Michele Worth in To Be The Best Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00 From Aug. 24 the political play "Sahra Kamounneyeh"	The political play Welcome Arabic Summit At 8:30 every Saturday and Sunday Salam Ya Salam play At 8:30 every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday Tuesday closed.	Present their play WHAT A PLACE! (Salam Ya Salam) Daily at 8:30 - 10:00 The theatre is closed on Tuesdays			

NEWS IN BRIEF**Jordan tops international peacekeepers**

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan ranked first among Arab countries in terms of the number of its troops participating in international peacekeeping operations, according to a United Nations report issued recently. The report said Jordan was fifth among world countries in terms of the number of its troops, totalling 3,553. Of the total number 3,441 are stationed in former Yugoslav countries. The report said Pakistan topped the world countries in the number of its peacekeeping troops with 9,210, followed by France whose peacekeeping troops total 6,243, India with 5,411, and Britain with 3,668 troops.

Palestinian journalists to run Gaza paper

GAZA (R) — A prominent Palestinian journalist, who has been jailed several times by Israel, said Sunday he had approval from Yasser Arafat to open a newspaper in the newly self-ruled Gaza Strip. The journalist, Taher Shireh, a Gaza Strip reporter for Reuters for more than seven years, won the freedom of the press award in 1993 from the National Press Club in Washington. "It's the first approval for a newspaper in the Gaza Strip since Palestinians took over," Mr. Shireh, 34, said. Mr. Shireh said he received written approval from Mr. Arafat on Saturday but it would take a few months to raise the money and start the newspaper, which he would call Palestine. He expected to start with a weekly before moving to daily publication.

Militiamen, 3 children hurt in bomb attack

MARJAYOUN (AFP) — A member of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) and his three children were injured when a bomb exploded near their home in South Lebanon, SLA officials said Sunday. Qassem Kanaan and his children were taken to hospital after the blast overnight Saturday in Shubaa, in the east of Israel's "security zone." The house was heavily damaged. It was the second such bomb attack in less than 36 hours targeting Lebanese allegedly collaborating with Israel in the zone. Late Thursday a bomb exploded in Khiam, in the western sector of the zone, as an intelligence officer, Riad Abdullah, was passing by in his car. He was not hurt in the blast. Two Israeli fighter-bombers Sunday flew over Herml in the Bekaa Valley in northeastern Lebanon, drawing anti-aircraft fire from Syrian forces. Security officials said the planes later turned back to southern Lebanon.

EI Al to begin direct flights to Nigeria

LAGOS (AFP) — The Israeli airline EI Al will start direct flights to Nigeria in two weeks, two years after the Jewish state established diplomatic representation here, Radio Nigeria reported Sunday. Nigeria Airways has also agreed to begin a direct flight from Nigeria to Israel soon, the radio quoted outgoing Israeli Ambassador Moshe Gilboa as saying when he paid a farewell visit to Minister of Information Jerry Gana in the capital Abuja. Private airlines in Nigeria have started negotiations with Israeli aircraft manufacturing companies with a view to purchasing Israeli planes, said the diplomat.

Another Japanese minister resigns

TOKYO (AFP) — Shin Sakurai on Sunday became the second Japanese cabinet member in three months to resign in disgrace at controversial remarks defending his country's wartime record. Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama accepted 61-year-old Sakurai's resignation as state minister and director general of the Environmental Agency, Jiji Press said. Former Defence Agency chief Sohei Miyashita, like Mr. Sakurai a Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) member, was named as his successor. Three months after Justice Minister Shigetomo Nagano resigned from the government of Tsutomu Hata for saying the Nanjing massacre was a "fabrication," Mr. Sakurai set off a new international storm on Friday. He came under fire from China and South Korea for saying Japan had not pursued a campaign of aggression in Asia during World War II. He also said Japan's occupation had benefitted the nations involved.

Israelis train for service in Arab states

TEL AVIV (AP) — The foreign ministry's newest group of cadets, the largest in its history, will be the first especially trained to work in Arab countries, it announced Sunday. The 50 cadets, more than double last year's class of 20, include graduates of Arab studies who will take a special course designed to prepare them to serve in the embassies Israel hopes will open in Arab states, a ministry statement said. Ministry director Uri Savir said that 20 countries have forged diplomatic relations with Israel since the September signing of the preliminary agreement with the Palestinians and that many other countries have expanded ties as a result. Israel has diplomatic ties with 146 countries. Fifty-five of these renewed or established ties with Israel since the 1991 Madrid conference that launched the Mideast peace talks.

Iran paper wants Jordan ties scaled down

TEHRAN (AFP) — An Iranian newspaper called Sunday for the government to scale down its diplomatic ties with Jordan. "It is not in the interest of the Islamic republic to improve ties with a regime which has betrayed Islam," asserted Jomhuri Islami, a paper close to Islamic hardliners. "Reducing political relations is the least we can do under the present conditions," the paper said. Jomhuri Islami said Jordan "could take the initiative to break or cut back ties with Iran under pressure from the Zionists, if Iran does not act immediately."

U.N. appeals for compromise in Somalia

NAIROBI (AFP) — The U.N. special representative to Somalia, Victor Ghebo, has urged leaders of Somalia's political factions to make compromises in order to reach agreements on resolving the country's problems. "Somali people must exert pressure on their leaders to make progress towards peace and the establishment of a national government," he told his first press conference for local Somali journalists, according to a statement faxed to AFP by the U.N. Operation Somalia (UNOSOM) from the capital Mogadishu. "It is time for the voice of the young people to be heard. Young people must tell their leaders to sue for peace. They must be concerned about the situation in the country instead of joining the militias of the various factions," the UNOSOM statement quoted Mr. Ghebo as saying.

Kuwait rejects proposed Hindu boycott

KUWAIT (R) — The Kuwaiti government has rejected a proposal by two members of parliament to bar Hindus, a large community with historic roots in the oil emirate, in protest at the destruction of a historic mosque in India. The plan violated political and religious norms, was likely to hurt Kuwait's interests and would damage its human rights record, Cabinet Affairs Minister Abdul Aziz Al Dakhlil said in a statement carried in most newspapers on Sunday. Also, India might retaliate by banning Kuwaitis from India, he added. "Those carrying out terrorist acts against Muslims are a small group and it is not correct to generalise this on all Hindus," he said. Muslim fundamentalist Deputy Khaled Al Adwa and independent Mohammed Shapur proposed in January that Kuwait launch an unspecified boycott of all Hindus as well as ban their entry in retaliation for the destruction by extremist Hindus of the historic Babri Mosque at Ayodhya in 1992.

UNIKOM probes ambush

KUWAIT CITY (Agencies) — The U.N. force on the Kuwait-Iraq border is investigating the murder of one of its Bangladeshi soldiers but has no plan to increase the number of observers in the demilitarised zone, a spokesman said.

Guns in civilian clothes shot dead Lieutenant Harun Ul Rashid and wounded two other Bangladeshi members of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) in an ambush late Friday.

Iraq said the attack was carried out by smugglers seeking revenge for the confiscation of a consignment of alcohol.

"We are evaluating the practical procedures to provide the personnel... but we have no plan to take any additional measures to secure our people," said a UNIKOM spokesman, asking not to be named.

"We will not decrease or increase the number of UN peacekeepers," he said. "We are investigating as well as the Iraqis, and the results will appear within a few days."

He said: "This situation is very quiet at the borders. That's why the incident came as a surprise."

Lt. Rashid was the first member of the 1,150-man mission to be killed since it was deployed along the 200-kilometre border in April 1991 following the Gulf War.

UNIKOM sent a message of protest to Baghdad on Saturday to "denounce this barbaric slaughter." But the United Nations has avoided blaming the Iraqis.

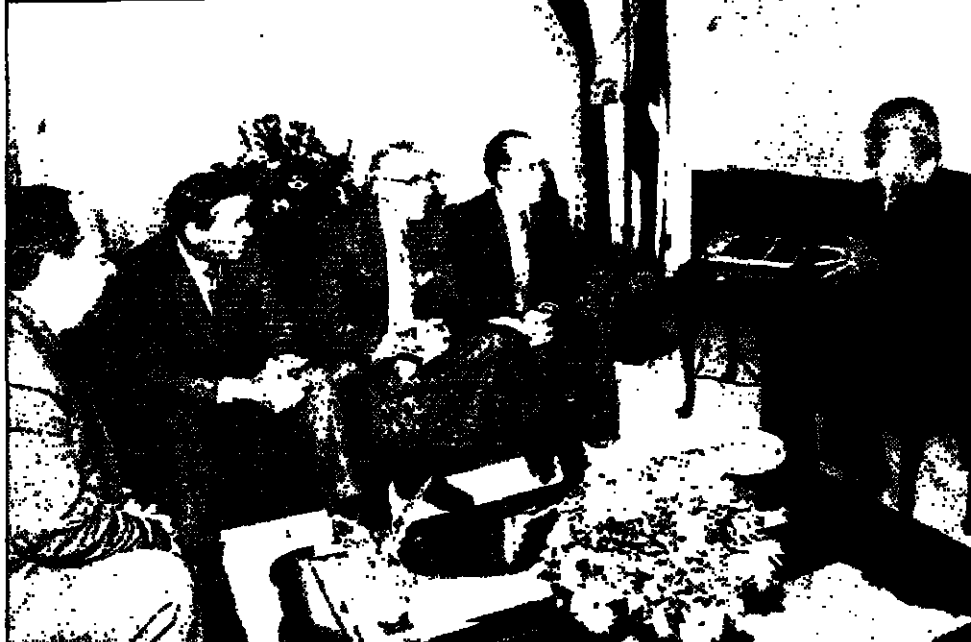
"We cannot identify the assassins, if they are Iraqis or not. It was late and the injured observers could not see the people who shot them," the spokesman said.

Iraqi authorities have denied any of their soldiers were involved, saying no military units were based in the zone and blaming the attack on bandits.

"A band of bandits and traffickers attacked the U.N. post at Safwan," in south-eastern Iraq "in revenge for" having confiscated alcoholic drinks they were trying to bring into Iraq," the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) said.

A Kuwaiti foreign ministry official said his country would wait for the results of the U.N. investigation.

"We should not worry" because the situation along the border has generally been calm, the official said.



KING MEETS U.S. TEAM: His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday receives representatives of the Washington-based Council of Foreign Relations who briefed the King on their council's concepts for development projects in the region. The meeting, which took place at the Royal Court, was attended by His Majesty's Political Adviser Marwan Al Qasbi (Petra photo)

Accord continues to elude Iraq-Turkey pipeline talks

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior Iraqi official said Sunday that negotiations on emptying an Iraqi pipeline through Turkey had not yet reached full agreement and indicated that Baghdad remained firm on its rejection of including rebels Kurds as beneficiaries from the proceeds of the emptied oil.

Riyadh Al Qaisi, under-secretary of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, also said three days of talks he held in Ankara were aimed mainly at "acquainting Iraq with the latest developments in Turkish contacts with Security Council members" on the pipeline affair.

Mr. Qaisi, in comments to the Jordan Times on his way home from Ankara on Sunday, denied a Turkish statement that his talks in the Turkish capital had produced agreement on pumping the pipeline.

"There are some points that need more negotiations," Mr. Qaisi said. "Iraq considers the questions as outstanding, particularly that distribution of supplies all over Iraq remains suspended."

"Before agreement is reached on this issue, it cannot be said that a full agreement has been reached," said Mr. Qaisi, Baghdad's pointman in oil negotiations.

The reference to "distribution of supplies all over Iraq" was to an American

insistence that the rebellious Kurds who live in a self-declared autonomous enclave under Western protection in northern Iraq in defiance of the Baghdad government should be included as recipients of food and medicine bought from proceeds of the oil pumped from the pipeline.

The U.S. is insisting on "equitable distribution" of supplies throughout Iraq as a condition for Washington's agreement to a U.N. decision to approve the emptying of the 966-kilometre twin pipeline that runs from Iraq's Kirkuk oil fields to a Turkish terminal in the Mediterranean.

Independent experts say that it is unlikely that the outstanding differences could be settled at the U.N. in time for actual work to start on the pipeline before winter sets in.

Turkey closed the pipeline immediately after the U.N. Security Council imposed international sanctions against Iraq following the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. It was also a member of the U.S.-led international coalition that fought Iraq out of Kuwait in February 1991.

Since then, however, Turkey, arguing that it lost as much as \$20 billion as a result of the sanctions, has been calling for an easing of the crippling trade embargo against its neighbour.

Emptying the pipeline, which, together with the ter-

minals, is expected to hold about 12 million barrels of oil, will benefit Turkey since Ankara's share is 3.8 million barrels.

In addition, Turkey, which is hardpressed by its oil requirements against rising energy needs, would also be able to buy the rest of the oil at special prices negotiated with Iraq. However, the official line is that unless the oil is pumped, the pipeline could be corroded and rendered useless once the Security Council gets around to formally lifting the sanctions.

Sections of the pipeline in rebel-controlled territory have come under bomb attacks but the damages are not of a serious nature, reports say. However, the attacks have added a sense of urgency to the ongoing negotiations.

Thirty per cent of the proceeds from the oil sales will be sent to a U.N. compensation fund for victims of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, another 10 to 15 per cent for U.N. expenses in Iraq and the rest will be spent to buy food and medicine for Iraq, which remains under international sanctions.

Industry experts also note that a few more million will be deducted as the cost of cleaning the pipeline. They estimate that the net amount of what would be spent on food and medicine for Iraq will be around \$100 million.

(Continued on page 7)

Rwandans report fresh slaughter

NGOZI (AFP) — Some 2,000 Rwandan refugees, mostly Hutus, have begun to arrive in Burundi every day, fleeing feared violence in Rwanda, and at least 200 have been killed since arriving, aid officials said Sunday.

Refugees in three camps set up in the Ngozi, Kirundo and Muvumba provinces said soldiers of the Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), which seized control of most of Rwanda in July, had followed them over the border from Rwanda and extorted money and possessions from them.

The refugees, hoping to gain shelter from Burundi's Hutu majority population, also blamed the RPF for killings committed in Burundi. The exodus, paralleling those elsewhere in Rwanda, followed reports that the French had decided to pull their troops out of the south-west area of Rwanda which borders Burundi and where the Hutus had gone for protection from the RPF.

There has been no evidence to date of widespread atrocities committed by the RPF but isolated reports of attacks have continued. The Hutus, who all appear to believe the reports, poured along three roads leading for the camps set up in Ngozi, Kirundo and Muvumba provinces.

"Three weeks ago, 47 Hutus, including women and children, were rounded up at the Mparamirundi transit camp, taken into a church and killed," a spokesman for the medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres said here Sunday.

"The killers were not identified," he added.

At around the same time, 50 Rwandans, all Hutus, "were killed on the road close to the Kabore transit camp, about a dozen kilometres from Rwanda," a spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) here said.

"There also, the killers, dressed in soldiers' uniforms, were not identified," he added.

In a further incident on May 11, a hundred Rwandan refugees were killed by armed men at Kiri in Kirundo province, close to the Rukuramigabo camp, he said.

Asked about the claims that the RPF had carried out the killings, the spokesman said it "cannot be ruled out."

Queen Elizabeth gets warm welcome in Canada

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia (R) — Thousands of well-wishers lined the streets of Halifax Saturday to give a hearty welcome to Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, who started her 10-day visit to Canada in this royalty-loving province.

Onlookers burst into applause as the motorcade carrying the queen and her husband, Prince Philip, came into sight. When she descended from the car, dressed in a salmon-and-cream-coloured hat that matched her coat and dress, the flag-waving crowd cheered wildly.

This is the fourth time the queen has visited Nova Scotia, one of the provinces in Canada that shows the most affection for the British royal family. Canada became independent from Britain in 1867 but it remains part of the Commonwealth of former British colonies. Queen Elizabeth's portrait on stamps and bank notes and a holiday to commemorate Queen Victoria's birthday in May are some of the remaining ties to the monarchy.

The queen is officially head of state of Canada, but public opinion polls show a waning attachment to her and many Canadians favour a severing of the centuries-old tie to Britain. However, the queen's trip was strategically planned to avoid places like mainly French-speaking Quebec, where a recent Gallup poll showed only 17 per cent favour the monarchy. Instead it began in Atlantic Canada, where positive monarch sentiment is greatest, at 59 per cent.

Diana in talks on documentary — paper

LONDON (R) — Princess Diana has held secret talks with veteran U.S. broadcaster Walter Cronkite to discuss arranging a television documentary about her life, Britain's Mail On Sunday newspaper reported. The Mail, quoting what it called friends of the princess, said the documentary would be her response to a 2-1/2 hour interview with Prince Charles by British journalist Jonathan Dimbleby broadcast two months ago. In the candid Dimbleby interview, Prince Charles admitted adultery after the breakdown of his marriage to Princess Diana. The frank admission was seen by royal watchers as part of a campaign to improve the princess's negative public image. Opinion polls showed a rise in public support for the heir to the throne after the programme. The Mail said Princess Diana believed her side of the story of the breakdown of what was originally billed as a fairytale marriage had yet to be told properly and she had asked to meet Cronkite. The talks with Cronkite took place recently aboard two yachts near Martha's Vineyard on the U.S. east coast, said the newspaper. The Mail said Cronkite had assured Princess Diana the documentary, which would include a meeting at her home as well as access to her sons Prince William and Harry, would be handled sensitively.

Castro celebrates 68th birthday

HAVANA (AFP) — Thousands of Communist faithful gathered to celebrate Fidel Castro's 68th birthday despite a threatening sky over the Morro Fort area where Mr. Castro's rebels won a historic victory in 1959. During the gathering at the fortress, security was extremely tight in the main square, down the seaside boulevard called the Malecon and nearby streets where an unusual two-hour riot occurred on Aug. 5. That and a spat with the United States over Cuban emigres appeared forgotten as Mr. Castro's supporters waved flags and chanted pro-revolution slogans.

Similar rallies were called in other cities on this Caribbean island, according to the government National Information Agency. Cuba hit hard times — the combination of a three-decade-old embargo and the collapse of the East Bloc has brought the economy to its knees. Many Cuban boat people have taken to the Caribbean Sea on their way to Florida.

Haitians.

Seoul to offer reactor to North

SEOUL (AP) — President Kim Young-Sam will offer North Korea a billion-dollar nuclear reactor if the North proves it has not been developing atomic weapons, officials said Sunday.

Mr. Kim was expected to make the offer in a statement marking the 49th anniversary Monday of Korea's liberation from Japanese occupation in 1945. South Korean officials said on condition of anonymity.

The offer would support a deal between North Korea and the United States on Saturday in which Washington agreed to help provide the communist North with safer, light-water reactors and establish some form of diplomatic recognition.

Under the deal struck in Geneva, the North promised to freeze its nuclear programme and remain part of the

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

North Korea will be given a modern nuclear reactor only when it proves it has not been developing atomic weapons, South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-Joo told reporters Sunday.

Mr. Han said that North Korea must fully comply with a safeguards agreement monitored by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), under which it is required to open its suspect nuclear facilities to inspections.

South Korea has an advanced nuclear power industry with nine reactors in operation and is capable of building light-water reactors. A light-water reactor takes up to 10 years to build and costs about \$2 billion.

Under the Geneva deal,

the United States pledged to help North Korea replace its outdated graphite-moderated nuclear reactors, which produce more of plutonium, a key ingredient of atomic bombs.

North Korea also promised to forgo reprocessing of thousands of spent fuel rods. Western analysts believe reprocessing the rods could produce enough plutonium for five nuclear weapons.

The two sides are to negotiate unresolved points, including the storage of the spent fuel rods and inspections of two facilities which the North insists are military sites and thus off-limits.

The Foreign Ministry said Sunday that South Korea and the United States had agreed to cooperate in convincing North Korea to allow full nuclear inspections.

Berlusconi-Bossi deal is fragile

ROME (R) — A reconciliation between Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi and his Northern League coalition ally may avoid a further beating for the lira, but fear lingered on Sunday over how long the peace would last.

Their arms draped around each other's shoulders, Mr. Berlusconi and Umberto Bossi on Saturday pledged their commitment to stable government and buried their differences.

"These are the pictures that are supposed to convince Wall Street to stop selling the lira," state television said on Sunday as it showed the couple walking in the grounds of billionaire Berlusconi's palatial villa in Artore, near Milan.

The reconciliation came after a week of fears that tensions would tear Mr. Berlusconi's coalition apart. Those fears led to the lira's collapse to a record on Friday of 1,030

per German mark.

But many asked whether the scene of coalition harmony were not just another media offensive to paper over the cracks in Mr. Berlusconi's coalition after the lira's "black Friday."

"It does not seem that a peace accord has been reached, merely a truce until the next argument," La Repubblica newspaper said in a front-page editorial, noting the two remained at odds over plans to distance Mr. Berlusconi from his business empire.

Mr. Berlusconi's coalition partners were cautiously optimistic.

"The meeting is without a doubt a good thing," said Pierferdinando Casini, leader of the Christian Democratic Centre, a junior coalition partner. "It will be even better if actions follow words."

In a move some commentators dubbed "spaghetti diplomacy," Mr. Bossi and Mr.

Berlusconi ironed out their differences in a meeting in the small hours of Saturday which ended with the two eating a plate of pasta at 5 a.m.

But the underlying tension between the two was evident in the television interviews they gave to try to convince nervous Italians and financial markets that all was well.

The weekend peace marked the latest twist in a stormy relationship. Last month, Mr. Bossi played a key role in foiling an unpopular decree that let scores of corruption suspects leave preventive detention in jail for house arrest.

He then lashed Mr. Berlusconi for failing to distance himself from his \$7 billion per year Fininvest business empire which was being investigated in a graft probe. Mr. Berlusconi's brother Paolo is under house arrest over the affair.